

## North Sea oil price cut by \$4 a barrel

By Jonathan Davis and David Blake

The British National Oil Corporation yesterday bowed to the pressures of the world oil market and offered to cut the price of North Sea oil by \$4 a barrel. The move, which was promptly accepted by British Petroleum and seems certain to be accepted by the rest of the industry, will cost the Treasury up to £1,000 million in lost revenue over the next year.

The cut brings the basic price of North Sea oil down from \$35 a barrel to \$31 a barrel, and follows a reduction of \$1.50 a barrel in the second week of February. It means that the value of North Sea oil has fallen by 15 per cent in less than four weeks.

The cut is larger than many oil companies expected to be offered by BNOC. In return, however, the state-owned oil corporation has stipulated that the companies must agree to hold the new price until the end of June, regardless of whether other big producers of similar-quality oil, such as Saudi Arabia and Nigeria, cut their prices by larger amounts in the meantime.

The move may not result in any immediate benefits for motorists, who have seen petrol prices come down by more than 20p a gallon since November. Shell, which last night was still considering the BNOC offer, made it clear that it would be trying to avoid passing the reduction on to the motorists in the form of lower pump prices.

Petrol is selling at an average of about 149p a four star gallon compared with more than 170p four months ago. In some areas the price has fallen to less than 140p.

A Shell spokesman said the company still calculated that it needed petrol prices to average 172p for it to make a "positive economic return" on the product. Industry observers, however, believe that the price-cutting war between big companies and independent retailers may continue for several weeks yet.

BNOC's decision to cut its contract crude oil terms fol-

lows intense pressure from the oil companies, which have been making heavy losses on their refining operations. It also reflects the downward pressure on oil prices in world markets in recent weeks, caused by a world oil surplus.

Because of the significant impact a lower oil price has on the Government's North Sea revenues, BNOC made its offer only after careful consultation with officials from the Treasury and Department of Energy.

Although the \$4-a-barrel offer is a larger immediate cut than was expected, government officials are clearly prepared to accept the loss of revenue now in return for a guarantee that there will be no further changes until the second half of the year.

The oil companies had indicated that if they were offered a reduction of, say, \$2 a barrel now, they would probably attempt to wring a second reduction out of BNOC later this month, when second-quarter contracts would normally be expected to come up for negotiation. This is now unlikely to happen.

The BNOC move will increase pressure on members of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries to reduce their prices, and means that Britain has now taken a decisive step in fixing world oil prices for the first time.

Although the result will be to reduce government revenue by about £1,000m, the net effect on the Government's finances will probably be less than half that amount.

Mr. Jack Bruce-Gardyne, Economic Secretary to the Treasury, said last week that each \$1 fall in the price of a barrel of oil would cost the Government £250m in lost revenue in a full year if nothing else changed. But cheaper fuel helps to boost output and other factors working in the Government's favour could halve the cost.

The move has been expected for some weeks and Ministers have warned that it reduces the scope for tax concessions in next Tuesday's Budget. But it is thought unlikely to force any drastic rethink by the Chancellor, Sir Geoffrey Howe. The pound could come under pressure, as its value has been boosted by sterling's oil backing in recent years. If the Government lets sterling fall, it could start receiving some of its lost tax revenue. Oil prices are quoted in dollars, but it is the price in sterling which counts in deciding the tax take.

A three cent drop in the value of the pound would cost the Treasury the effect of a \$1 drop in the price of North Sea oil. The Government is, however, likely to resist any substantial depreciation of sterling.

Leading article, page 11

## US following wrong policies, says Heath

By Julian Haviland, Political Editor

A warning that Western statesmen must improve their relations with the Third World, and understand the changing basis of power in international affairs, if they are to resist Soviet expansion was given in the United States last night by Mr. Edward Heath.

In a speech prepared for delivery at Fulton, Missouri but distributed in advance in London, Mr. Heath roundly criticised the United States Government for its policies in the Middle East and in Central America and for failing to manage its domestic economy responsibly. He said that Europe must act to insulate itself from the next shock of world trade from a collapse of the dollar.

On Poland, Mr. Heath said the alliance was wrong to place its faith in meaningless sanctions which had failed to help Afghanistan. He argued strongly for the pursuit of détente, saying it was the Helsinki process that had helped the movement for freedom in Poland. But there was no instrument of policy by which we could instantly change Soviet calculations there.

"Nothing the West can do now will stop a Soviet invasion if the Kremlin judges this to be the only way of keeping alive the Polish Communist Party," Mr. Heath said. No policy of the West could have pre-empted the imposition of martial law in Poland except possibly the provision of massive grants and food supplies.

The West could only influence the process of change in Poland, as well as in the Soviet Union, by long-term policies which supported and encouraged those who were committed to gradual reform. Mr. Heath's thesis was that power in the modern world today derived as much from the wealth of understanding between leaders as from economic or military strength.

"In so many cases the extent of our influence depends crucially upon the belief of others that we respect their values... not merely in the realm of politics but also of culture and religion."

Mr. Heath thought that many in the West underestimated the bonds between Third World nations which have caused a grievance on the part of one to become a grievance on the part of many.

"It would seem to me that the use of Western military power to secure oil supplies from the Gulf in an emergency would be precisely the effect of a direct Soviet assault on the oil-producing regions."

With a bluntness which old-fashioned diplomats used to eschew, Mr. Heath went on: "Unfortunately, the friends of the United States can by no means rest assured that it will not make these mistakes in the future when they see, for example, its policies towards El Salvador and Saudi Arabia."

Mr. Heath's American audience were jolted at the use of the word "perpetrator" of a pernicious tendency to downgrade international cooperation.

But the British Government was in his sights. The new religion of so-called self-reliance in London and Washington was damaging the economies of others as well as their own.

In the United States the unprecedented overvaluation of the dollar caused by loose fiscal policies was bound to damage growth and bring instability to the world currencies. The determination of the American authorities to avoid intervening in the markets to control the value of the dollar would make things worse. The European Community should insulate itself by the selective use of exchange controls and greater supervision of the Euro-currency markets.



Waiting their turn: England cricketers during practice in Johannesburg, South Africa, yesterday. From left, Les Taylor, who says he is in South Africa to coach, Wayne Larkins, Derek Underwood and Peter Willey.

## Law chief escapes IRA gun ambush

From Richard Ford Belfast

Two IRA gunmen tried to kill the Lord Chief Justice of Northern Ireland, Lord Lowry, as he arrived for lunch at Queen's University in south Belfast yesterday.

He escaped unhurt after four shots were fired by two terrorists hiding in an empty house next door to the senior staff common room, but a professor leaving the building was hit in the upper thigh.

Mr. Robert Perkes, aged 37, professor of accountancy at the university for the past two years, was taken to the Royal Victoria Hospital, where his condition was described last night as comfortable.

The two gunmen escaped with an accomplice in a car which had earlier been hijacked in the Republican Andersonstown area of West Belfast.

The IRA later claimed responsibility for the attack which took place shortly before 1 p.m. The shots were fired as Lord Lowry, aged 63, left his bullet-proof car to enter the common room, opposite the Methodist college.

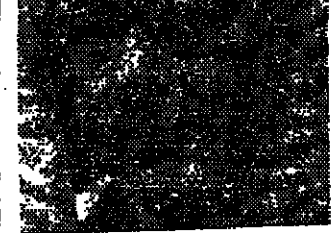
People ran for cover and pupils were ushered into the college buildings. Lord Lowry was hurried into the common room as his armed bodyguards took aim at the window from which the shots had come. They did not open fire.

The Lord Chief Justice was due to have lunch before giving an unpublished lecture at the university's faculty of law. The lecture went ahead as planned about an hour after the attack.

Lord Lowry has been Lord Chief Justice of Northern Ireland since 1971 and as Sir Robert Lowry was chairman of the University of Ulster from 1976. He has presided at several terrorist trials.

Since 1973 three law officers have been murdered by terrorists. A resident magistrate, a resident magistrate, and Judge Rory Conaghan were shot dead. Last summer terrorists tried to kill Lord Gardiner who was visiting the province, but a device attached to his car fell off.

Meanwhile officials would make no comment on speculation that Princess Anne might make a one-day visit to the province today.



Lord Lowry: escaped unhurt



Professor Robert Perkes: thigh injury

## Commons anger as Thatcher fails to condemn cricketers

By Philip Webster and John Witherow

Mrs. Margaret Thatcher yesterday enraged the Opposition and upset many Conservative MPs for what they regarded as a lukewarm admission to the England cricketers who have gone to South Africa.

Although the Prime Minister, under questioning in the Commons, repeated several times that the Government supported the Gleneagles agreement discouraging sporting links with South Africa, she refused personally to condemn the rebel players.

International criticism continued however. India and Pakistan maintained that they would not tour England this summer if any of the 12 players were included in an England side.

Mr. Allan Rae, president of the West Indies Cricket Board of Control, said the tour was bound to have serious repercussions throughout the cricketing world. Speaking in Kingston, Jamaica, he said: "It would seem the players do not appreciate the situation... or they were deliberately trying to create problems at the international level."

The Commonwealth Games in Brisbane in October also remained under threat from a boycott by African states already angered by New Zealand's rugby contacts with South Africa.

In the Commons MPs from all parties later commented that the dismay with which Mrs. Thatcher's move was regarded was not translated into words. They were saying that her attitude could have been influenced by the strength of support evident for a Commons motion to censure the Conservative Government congratulating the cricketers. By last night 40 MPs had signed it.

In reply to Mr. Michael Foot, the Labour leader, and Mr. David Steel, for the Liberals, Mrs. Thatcher said only that the Government's views on the tour had been made clear by Mr. Neil Macfarlane, Minister for Sport.

Mrs. Thatcher said: "We are signatories of the Gleneagles agreement. We reaffirmed it. We tried to uphold its terms. Our powers are limited to persuasion. The Test and County Cricket Board did everything they could... but they did not know when the visit was going to take place. In so far as they did know they attempted to persuade people not to go. She added: "In the end the decision is up to each of the persons concerned because they are in a free country."

The biggest cheer from the Labour benches came when Sir Hector Monro, the former Conservative Minister of Sport, intervened to say that no sport would flourish unless there was loyalty and trust between competitors and players to their governing body. It was a sad day when money was more important than the game.

Mr. Foot had said that if the Government's condemnation was not strong enough, the Commonwealth Games would be at risk. Mrs. Thatcher maintained: "We do not have the power to prevent our sportsmen and women from visiting South Africa or anywhere else. If we had we would no longer be a free country."

Mr. John Carlisle, MP for Luton, West, who tabled the motion urging the TCCB not to engage in a personal vendetta against the cricketers, said last night that the England players would take comfort since they had not been roundly condemned by Mrs. Thatcher and that, he claimed, she had appeared to give an

"expression of quiet support" for them.

The Social Democrat MPs said last night that the Government should take powers to send back to South Africa any South African sportsman who came to Britain intending to break the Gleneagles agreement. In a motion regretting the Prime Minister's stance, the SDP said it was no longer acceptable for South African citizens to enter Britain without any form of visa control.

Meanwhile some confusion surrounded the composition of the touring team, which is due to start its first two-day match today against a national Colts side. The players are apparently startled by the strength of world reaction and the organizers have changed the game from a one-day to a two-day match to keep them occupied.

There was also intense speculation about the "thirteenth man" to join the party. The organizers confirmed that they were looking for at least one extra player.

It is understood, however, that approaches are being considered towards Derek Randall, the England batsman and brilliant fielder, and Paul Parker, the Sussex and England batsman who has been in Australia.

However, Parker, aged 26, played his first Test last summer and is unlikely to want to jeopardize a promising international career.

Geoff Humpage, a wicket-keeper/batsman for Warwickshire, and Richard Law, a Yorkshire opener, both at present playing in South Africa, are also being considered for the side.

Letters, page 11  
How deal was struck, page 17  
Frank Johnson, back page

## Few will escape seat belt laws

By Annabel Ferriman

Only about 7,000 drivers are likely to be exempted from wearing seat belts when they become compulsory later this year, Dr. John Haward, secretary of the British Medical Association, said yesterday.

No single condition, such as pregnancy, arthritis, chest scars or obesity, is likely to justify exemption, although a combination might, the Medical Commission on Accident Prevention has decided.

The commission's transport committee is advising doctors who will be responsible for providing exemption certificates, that they be kept to a minimum. A temporary certificate might be given to someone with cracked ribs or who has just had an operation.

A total of 7,000 exemptions in the first year, and about 1,000 a year after that, has been estimated from experience in Sweden, according to Dr. Haward, who is a member of the transport committee. In Sweden, with a population of eight million, about 1,000 exemptions were issued in the first year.

The committee's general attitude, he said, was that if people were well enough to drive a car they were probably well enough to wear a seat belt, although the belt might have to be modified in certain cases.

Dr. Andrew Raffle, chairman of the committee, said that because the wearing of seat belts could reduce deaths by 10,000 a year, "doctors would have to balance very carefully indeed the advantages to their patient of reducing the risk of injury or death against any reason the patient might give for wearing a seat belt."

Dr. Raffle added that when the implications of wearing seat belts were understood there should be few requests for exemptions.

Studies had shown, he said, that drivers wearing seat belts were 51 per cent less likely to be injured in a crash, 45 per cent less likely to have a serious injury and 75 per cent less likely to die.

He did not think that many people would plead claustrophobia as a reason for exemption. If they did not suffer claustrophobia through being in a car, it was unlikely that they would feel it by putting on a belt.

Under the new law, no starting date for which has yet been set, drivers and front seat passengers including children will have to wear belts. The driver will be responsible for ensuring that children under 14 are belted if in a front seat.

## Hillhead poll date is set

The writ for the by-election at Glasgow, Hillhead, will be moved by the Government to move the election to March 25. The Conservatives, who won the seat with a 2,002 majority in 1979, are threatened by both Labour and Mr. Roy Jenkins, for the Social Democratic Party.

## Price rise veto planned

## How Labour would force companies into line

By Anthony Bevins, Political Correspondent

Labour Party and TUC leaders are working on an industrial planning policy which includes price sanctions to force renegade companies into line with the demands of a Labour government.

Confidential documents on planning and industrial democracy, which will form the foundation of Labour's industrial strategy, bring together proposals for workers' rights and planners' power.

They argue that the most crucial weapon available to central planners, and one that is needed "to ensure a constructive response from the corporate sector", is a discretionary power over prices.

One payer says: "The ability to allow or refuse a price increase on planning grounds could provide planners with a very powerful lever over cash flow. Of course, this is not to underestimate the force of other incentives, such as access to credit which, in some circumstances, could become vital."

The significance of the papers is that they have been passed by a powerful, if obscure, policy group which brings together senior TUC members, the Labour national executive and the Shadow Cabinet. It includes Mr. Len Murray, Mr. Wedgwood Benn and Mr. Peter Shore, the Shadow Chancellor.

A final draft of the policy paper is expected to be ready next month, for approval by the joint TUC-Labour liaison committee. The Foot-led focal point of Labour's policy-making machinery.

The preliminary papers, a so-called synopsis, privately endorsed by Labour and TUC leaders last month, indicate that the old-style planning

agreements, abhorrently introduced by the last Labour government, have been replaced by French-style development contracts.

Contracts would be signed after negotiations between a national planning authority and management and work-force representatives in each individual enterprise, "aimed at achieving the widest possible agreement on issues of common strategic importance." It is thought that the contracts could initially apply to the top one hundred companies, with others to follow.

Another paper explains: "These negotiations would require a continuous exchange of information, and ultimately agreement, on a wide range of strategic issues, including purchasing policy, imports, investment, pricing, product development, industrial relations and training."

On purchasing policy, it is said that agreement on the pattern of corporate procurement will be vital in obtaining a more balanced regional and industrial spread of growth. Similarly, "the achievement of import penetration targets on an industry-by-industry basis is a key planning objective, without which the return to full employment could not be sustained."

Early legislation would be needed to create, among other bodies, an industrial democracy commission, a national planning authority, and a national institute for public enterprise management, a proposal which has been given the personal sponsorship of Mr. Clive Jenkins. A restructuring of ministries is also mooted.

Shore strategy, page 2

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**Violinist defects:** Wanda Wilkowska, former wife of the Polish Deputy Premier, Mieczyslaw Rakowski, has defected to the West, her agent announced. She is an eminent violinist and on a concert tour in West Germany. Recently their younger son left Poland for the West with his wife and young child.

## Children plunge over cliff

A man was helping police inquiries yesterday after one small child died and another was seriously injured when they plunged over cliffs at Hope Cove, near Kingsbridge, south Devon.

Devon and Cornwall police could not confirm the identities of the two girls, but it is understood that the child who died is Rowan Beale, aged two, from Swinbridge, north Devon, and that her three-year-old sister, Lily, suffered severe head injuries.

The girls were taken from their home last Friday. After their disappearance, Mrs Susan Beale, their mother, aged 33, made a public appeal for their return. After today's incident, at the other end of the county from their mother's home, a distraught Mrs Beale was taken to Freedom Fields Hospital, Plymouth, where the children were flown by a Royal Navy helicopter from Culdrose, Cornwall.

Mrs Beale and the children's father, Mr Edward Beale, aged 50, separated just over six months ago.

## Secret hearing on assets sale

The Commons Public Accounts Committee has decided to go into secret session when it takes evidence in the House next Monday on the sale of Leyland Vehicles' tractor division assets at Barlgate, in Scotland.

## Anglican Church and the Pope

The Anglican Church is to be urged by a theological commission to accept a modest version of the doctrine of papal infallibility as a step towards unity with the Roman Catholic Church. Page 12

## Brezhnev visit to Poland

President Brezhnev has accepted an invitation from General Jaruzelski, who ended a two-day visit to the Soviet Union, to go to Poland, Moscow Radio reported. No date was mentioned. Jaruzelski backed, page 4

## Troops threat

A leading Republican Senator said that he was considering introducing a Bill for the withdrawal of some American troops from Europe because of growing dissatisfaction over Europe's refusal to spend more on defence. Page 4

## Doctor struck off

A Surrey doctor who had an affair with the wife of a man who entrusted him to rescue their marriage was ordered to be struck off the medical register. Page 3

## Poll observers

The British observers whom the Government is sending to report on the El Salvador elections were named in the Commons as Professor Derek Bowett, QC, President of Queen's College, Cambridge and Sir John Galsworthy, a former ambassador to Mexico. Leader, page 11

Letters: On South African cricketers, from Lord Chalfont; compulsory service, from Mr M. G. Smith

Leading articles: Opec, Barbican

Features, pages 8 & 10

Why the Government should ban sports tours of South Africa, by Donald Woods; an architect's view of the Barbican Centre; Country: from boom to state of shock

Obituary, page 12

Viscount Gage, Mr George Crossfield

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## NEWS IN SUMMARY

## Advance in treatment of hay fever

An antihistamine has been developed which the manufacturers say treats hay fever and other allergic conditions without causing drowsiness or otherwise affecting the patient's mental state (Our Medical Correspondent writes).

Hay fever sufferers have always had an unenviable choice: either to take an antihistamine and be free of their symptoms but to be irritable, lethargic and teetotal, or to suffer their symptoms, which in the summer months can be nearly disabling. Merrell, the pharmaceutical company, said yesterday that clinical trials have shown that the preparation called Triludan, unlike the earlier antihistamine, has no appreciable action on the brain. That represents an advance in that patients who have had to take large doses of antihistamine will in future be able to work with machinery, drive cars, and take alcohol. The customary warning that patients should avoid driving has been omitted with the approval of the Committee on Safety of Medicines.

Triludan has been available on prescription for a month.

## Alliance down in Mori poll

The Social Democrat-Liberal Alliance is slipping in popularity against both Conservative and Labour, according to an opinion poll published today. The poll, conducted by Market Opinion Research International for the Daily Star, gives the alliance a combined vote of 34 per cent, against 30 per cent for the Conservatives and 33 per cent for Labour. Last month the alliance had 40 per cent support.

Another Mori poll, in The Scotsman today, shows alliance support in Scotland has fallen by 5 percentage points in three months to 29 per cent, compared with 39 per cent for Labour, 18 per cent for Conservatives and the Scottish National Party 14 per cent.

## Winter cereal sowing higher

The area of winter wheat sown in Britain on December 1 was 1,596,000 hectares, an increase of 13 per cent over 1980, according to the biannual figures released yesterday by the Ministry of Agriculture.

The area of barley sown was 874,000 hectares, compared with 791,000 hectares on the same date a year earlier, an increase of nearly 11 per cent.

The figures, which Mr Peter Walker, Minister of Agriculture, described as striking, come after his disclosure in the Commons on Monday that EEC intervention stocks of cereals were still high.

EEC cereal prices are now well above world market levels, and there has been criticism that the European Commission's current proposals for a further increase of about 6 per cent contradict its stated intention to reduce the gap.

## Tebbit Bill dilemma

Conservative MPs on the Commons standing committee examining the Employment Bill face a dilemma over amendments tabled yesterday by the Social Democratic Party.

Mr Tom Bradley, the SDP's industrial relations spokesman, says the amendments would require trade union officers to be elected by secret ballot and would allow union members paying contributions to a political fund to choose their place of work.

The first objective is support committee, and the CIO also backs changes to the levy system. Many Conservatives had urged Mr Norman Tebbit, Secretary of State for Employment, to include such changes in the Bill.

## Ford workers go back

The strike at the Ford car plant in Halewood, Liverpool, ended yesterday after workers voted to return. About 500 body assembly workers accepted a recommendation from the union to end the strike, which had ended the unofficial dispute about the dismissal of one of their paint shop colleagues last Thursday.

Workers were told at a mass meeting that Mr Peter Kennedy, 20, had "contributed to his own downfall" by his bad work record. He was dismissed for being absent from his place of work after repeated warnings and five suspensions. The company estimated that the dispute cost them more than £5m in show-room sales of the Ford Escort car.

## BL in new tea dispute

Workers at BL's Longbridge plant are angry because the company has withdrawn three tea ladies' trolley service. Mr Denis Duffin, the chairman of the Engineering Workers' divisional organizer, said: "This is another case of BL chipping away at the paltry wages to save a paltry £17,000 a year."

BL says the move is part of a cost-cutting exercise, which includes closing rooms. The company says no worker would have to walk more than 150 yards to the canteen.

Last year 1,000 Longbridge workers went on strike over BL's plan to reduce takeaways.

## Shore's £9,000m strategy to boost economy

By Julian Haviland, Political Editor

Mr Peter Shore, the shadow Chancellor, yesterday demanded a £9,000m economic boost in next week's Budget to increase production by up to 5 per cent and cut unemployment by half a million.

He published an outline programme which includes a £3,500m increase in public service spending; income tax benefits for the lower paid and action to reduce interest and exchange rates.

The objective is to secure "substantial and sustained reductions in unemployment and a continuing expansion of output".

In three years of economic decline, many had experienced for the first time the humiliation of unemployment and many more had lived in fear of it.

They were repeatedly lectured on the list that there was no alternative to the policies which were accelerating the decline. That was not true.

Mr Shore told a Commons press conference that he believed the Government had settled for a new norm of about three million unemployed.

He feared that next week's Budget would be profoundly irrelevant to the country's needs, and while it might at the margin affect production and inflation, it would in no way tackle the enormous loss of output and employment which the country had suffered.

He said a deliberate change of direction was needed and quoted in support the CBI which said on unchanged policies the economy would remain very weak.

The document says the Government's medium-term financial strategy should be replaced by one which addressed itself to problems of the real economy and people's anxiety about the decay of industry.

Interest rates must be reduced to a "more realistic level", particularly against continental currencies and the yen, to restore competitiveness. Mr Shore preferred not to say what level he had in mind.

He also proposes cuts in value-added tax and the national insurance surcharge and to relax restraints on the external financing of nationalized industries at a total cost to the Exchequer of £4,500m.

At least another £1,000m would go on capital spending this year, with a higher level in later years.

Until enough capital projects could be brought on stream, the immediate boost must come from current expenditure, for which there were "almost endless" possibilities after three years of Conservative parsimony, with substantial savings expected in welfare benefits as unemployment fell.

In personal taxation, it was reasonable to look for at least another £1,000m from the fortunate minority whose share of the tax bill had declined while everybody else's had increased. That could be used to make good half the shortfall in the uprating of tax thresholds this year and to allow low income families out of tax.

Mr Shore's plan is completed with the restoration of exchange controls and the extension for another year of the Conservatives' special bank levy.

Business Editor, page 15

## Hijacking: men in court today

By Michael Horswell

A group of Tanzanians will appear before a special court in Chelmsford, Essex, today in connection with the hijacking of the Boeing 737 that landed at Stansted airport on Saturday.

The police would not specify their number or the charges against them, but speculation that relatives of the alleged gunmen might also face charges.

The return of the freed hostages was again delayed last night, this time at the request of the Tanzanian Government, which is planning an official reception for them in Dar es Salaam. They were expected to depart early today.

After undergoing more than 48 hours of police questioning, the hostages spoke for the first time in public yesterday of their ordeal.

One, who would not be named, said that one of the hijackers was drunk all the time, one slashed a steward's arm with a knife, and another threatened to kill him in the back of the plane, which was taken from a passenger by a security guard and handed to the captain for safe keeping.

"One of the hijackers found it and appeared to be fiddling with it when it went off," the hostage said.

The passengers were stunned and silent when the aircraft was taken over. "The only people who became upset were two brothers of the hijackers, one of them with a 10-year-old boy."

"The older one of these two, who was about 25, got hit more than anyone else. They knocked him to the floor and said: 'Why are you crying like a baby?'"

Mr Terence Duffy, the union's president, made clear at a private meeting with the union's 17 sponsored MPs on Monday night that he deplored the challenges by Mr Caborn and Mr James Michie, who defeated Mr Frank Healey the MP for Sheffield, Healey.

His declaration came after he had reiterated the union's support for Mr Ben Ford, MP for Bradford, North and one of the AUEW's sponsored MPs, who was not re-elected after a challenge by Mr Patrick Wall, a Militant supporter.

Mr Duffy said yesterday that the MPs at Monday night's meeting had approved his call for support for Mr Ford but added that they were "embarrassed" that Mr Caborn was standing against a member of Parliament (Mr Mulley) who was sponsored by the Association of Professional, Executive, Clerical and Computer Staffs.

Mr Caborn was entitled to attend Monday's meeting as he is a member of the European Parliament, said Mr Duffy. Mr Michie, he is not a member of the union's parliamentary panel. Under AUEW regulations members of the parliamentary panel are not allowed to challenge sitting MPs.

The union has been embarrassed by the fact that two of its left-wing activists have topped sitting MPs.

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## CALL FOR LOCAL POLICING

From Our Correspondent Liverpool

Sir Trevor Jones, Liberal leader in Liverpool City Council, yesterday called for the abolition of the Labour-controlled Merseyside police authority.

Sir Trevor said that district councils should play a leading role in police matters. "We should bring back local policing, and the district councils can do this," he said.

Sir Trevor was speaking at the publication of a council survey on the problems in Toxteth.

"The people of Toxteth have told us in the survey that more police are needed on the beat," Sir Trevor claimed.

The survey, which cost £5,000 to launch, asked householders in Toxteth to fill in a form asking a small number of simple questions about their area's troubles. Over half of the questionnaires were returned.

Of those residents who returned questionnaires, 22.4 per cent made the prevention of crime their first priority, with 36.8 per cent placing this among their top three priorities.

In second place was the need for jobs in the area, with 19.2 per cent of the respondents making this topic the most important.

But 14.7 per cent of those who replied said policing was their most important problem. Those with children tended to place slightly more emphasis on the prevention of crime and policing and less on new jobs.

Concern over the stress faced by teachers in the classroom has prompted Britain's biggest teachers' union to launch an investigation into how much tension in the profession has increased.

The National Union of Teachers (NUT) is launching a project with five local education authorities, Clwyd, Wrexham, Warrington, Wirral and Wirral, to collect information about teaching stress.

The first step will be to investigate the link between stress and absence from the classroom and illness. Some teachers under stress are more likely to suffer from colds or common illnesses and stay away.

Teachers taking part in the survey have been promised anonymity. The union may follow up its statistical research with detailed interviews with individual teachers and an attempt to find out how much education spending cuts have added to classroom stress with teachers striving to control bigger classes.

The National Association of Schoolmasters' Union (NAS) and the National Association of Women Teachers (NAWT), the second largest teachers' union, is more worried about the effects of violence in the classroom and has urged its negotiating secretaries in the 104 local education authorities in England and Wales to seek a declaration of intent from employers that they will prosecute anyone who attacks a teacher.

Both teachers' unions say that the number of cases of assault which have come to their notice have remained fairly constant over the last decade; but the NAS/UWT says violence in the primary school is increasing with children aged between 11 and 15 involved. They cite the recent disturbances in St Saviour's school, Toxteth, Liverpool, as evidence.

Mr Nigel de Gruchy, NAS/UWT assistant secretary, said his union had sanctioned industrial action in about a hundred cases over the past year to get disruptive pupils excluded from schools.

"We are dealing with one or two cases a day at our head office where teachers have been assaulted," he added. "Injuries vary, but broken noses and black eyes are common."

A member of the NAS/UWT, Mr Donald Harris, is one of 260 teachers who have opted for early retirement from the profession.

"Things are colossally different now from when I first taught in schools," he said. "When I first started not only could a junior teacher go into the playground and blow a whistle and everybody would stop and listen to him, but a prefect could do so as well."

Before he left teaching at the age of 55, with 24 years' service, the school was becoming a more unpleasant place.

"There were more and more political pressures being applied with the Inner London Education Authority's decision

## Union fights challenge to Mulley

By a Staff Reporter

Angry leaders of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers are to try to bring pressure on one of their members, Mr Richard Caborn, to stand down as prospective candidate after his successful challenge to Mr Sheffield, Healey, the MP for Sheffield, Park.

The union has been embarrassed by the fact that two of its left-wing activists have topped sitting MPs.

Mr Terence Duffy, the union's president, made clear at a private meeting with the union's 17 sponsored MPs on Monday night that he deplored the challenges by Mr Caborn and Mr James Michie, who defeated Mr Frank Healey the MP for Sheffield, Healey.

His declaration came after he had reiterated the union's support for Mr Ben Ford, MP for Bradford, North and one of the AUEW's sponsored MPs, who was not re-elected after a challenge by Mr Patrick Wall, a Militant supporter.

Mr Duffy said yesterday that the MPs at Monday night's meeting had approved his call for support for Mr Ford but added that they were "embarrassed" that Mr Caborn was standing against a member of Parliament (Mr Mulley) who was sponsored by the Association of Professional, Executive, Clerical and Computer Staffs.

Mr Caborn was entitled to attend Monday's meeting as he is a member of the European Parliament, said Mr Duffy. Mr Michie, he is not a member of the union's parliamentary panel. Under AUEW regulations members of the parliamentary panel are not allowed to challenge sitting MPs.

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## Violence in schools: 2

By Richard Garner of "The Times Educational Supplement"

Teachers face stress and broken noses

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## The Barbican's curtain rises from the ashes

"If ever a new town were needed it is here, and what a glorious opportunity for architects." Thus Mr Bryan Anstey, a London surveyor, in a letter to The Times on July 4, 1953, with the first suggestion that the bombed sites of Cripplegate be rebuilt as one dramatic entity. Tonight the Queen opens the City of London's £153m Barbican Arts Centre, the final stage of a new inner city (Alan Hamilton writes).

Anstey's scheme for a horizontal layer cake of shops, offices and flats was not widely appreciated. "It could only aggravate the existing monstrosity of London," High Barrow wrote. "New Barbicanism," a correspondent from a low-rise address in Welwyn Garden City snorted.

The City, a square mile devoted almost exclusively to making money, did not like it either, but the corporation was at least stirred to consider alternatives, only to have their own blatantly commercial plans sat upon by Mr Duncan Sandys, then Minister of Housing.

"I cannot believe that it is good for the City to be choked by day and deserted by night. A better balance between commercial and residential use would, I am sure, benefit everybody and last long," Mr Sandys wrote to the Lord Mayor.

The Government was plunged into a new dispute over its pledges to the poor yesterday when a Commons standing committee was told that a different formula would be applied to the annual review of the official poverty line. The Prime Minister's question time yesterday, but Mrs Margaret Thatcher said only that supplementary benefits would be increased by reference to the retail price index. Officials said afterwards that she had made a mistake.

The new formula will mean that basic supplementary benefits will rise less when housing costs increase faster than the general rate of price increases, and more when housing costs fall behind inflation.

The move is justified on the ground that the present system amounts to a huge discount because the basic rate rises in line with the general retail price index while actual housing costs are met in full under the present system.

The move is seen by Mr Rooker and others as a way of enabling the Government to meet the objections of its backbenchers by announcing, after all, that last November's 2 per cent shortfall in benefit increases will be made good this year without incurring higher public spending.

The announcement brought angry reactions from Labour MPs, local authority associations and poverty and housing groups. Mr Jeffrey Rankin, Labour MP for Birmingham, Perry Barr, accused the minister of introducing a new "Rossi price index" designed to reduce the living standards of the poor.

"If this formula had been used last year there would have been £90m less spent on supplementary benefit, and it is being introduced at a time when housing costs are rising."

He raised the issue during Prime Minister's question time yesterday, but Mrs Margaret Thatcher said only that supplementary benefits would be increased by reference to the retail price index. Officials said afterwards that she had made a mistake.

## MAN HAD THREE WAGE PACKETS

A detective told a judge yesterday that the "fiddling" of wage packets in Fleet Street was "a common practice".

Detective Constable Jim Hatcher, of Kings Cross CID, told a judge at the Inner London Crown Court that his inquiries showed that The Sunday Times was "probably the worst of the bunch".

Reginald Westrip, aged 44, of Salcott Crescent, New Addington, Surrey, a Sogat member, admitted falsifying wage packets between January and September 1980, while working casual shifts. Other similar charges against him were ordered to remain on the file.

Mr Robert Watson, for the prosecution, said Westrip was found out when police stopped him in the street early one morning on a minor matter and found he had two wage packets from The Sunday Times and one from the Radio Times. He also had a Sogat union card in a different name.

Sentencing him to six weeks' imprisonment, Judge George Shindler said: "It is clearly understood by any who might be like-minded, that this kind of behaviour will not be tolerated." Westrip was also ordered to pay £128 compensation to The Sunday Times.

Times Newspapers Ltd said last night that it did not wish to comment.

## Labour anger at change in poverty line formula

By Pat Healy, Social Services Correspondent

The Government was plunged into a new dispute over its pledges to the poor yesterday when a Commons standing committee was told that a different formula would be applied to the annual review of the official poverty line. The Prime Minister's question time yesterday, but Mrs Margaret Thatcher said only that supplementary benefits would be increased by reference to the retail price index. Officials said afterwards that she had made a mistake.

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Construction of this last phase was hopelessly delayed. Fierce opposition was led by a former Lord Mayor, Sir Edward Howard, who said the arts centre was the worst decision the City had taken in 800 years. The council voted by a slim majority to go ahead in 1971 with the cost put at £20m and the opening set for the Queen's Silver Jubilee in 1977.

The only way to accommodate the complex was to put most of it underground. Digging the hole alone, within yards of the foundations of 43-storey tower blocks, took four years. Poor productivity and the delays of argument pushed the bill to £153m.

Although the centre should cover its annual £6m running costs within five years, the City is unlikely ever to recover its outlay.

The arts centre will introduce one of the world's most advanced computerized ticket reservation and printing systems (Bill Johnstone writes).

Sixteen computer terminals will reserve seats and print tickets for all the Barbican's performances and by June, American lovers of culture should be able to book a seat for a performance at the centre from Manhattan, and be allocated a ticket immediately.

An architect's view, page 10  
Leading article, page 11

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## 'Progress' in Times union talks

By Donald Macintyre

Mr Rupert Murdoch, proprietor of The Times and The Sunday Times, left London for New York last night. Before he went he said he hoped to see "further signs of progress" in talks with unions on proposed job cuts when he returns later in the week.

"There have been signs of progress in several areas of negotiations," he said.

Mr Murdoch gave a warning three weeks ago that the newspapers faced closure unless agreements could be reached on a reduction of 600 in full-time jobs. The management has also been seeking cuts of up to 900 part-time shifts a week.

A two-day meeting of the executive of the National Society of Operative Printers, Graphical and Media Personnel (Natsopa) begins this morning. The executive is to discuss applications for voluntary redundancy under the company scheme expires.

Clerical employees were told in a personal letter from Mr Murdoch that if enough volunteers came forward the 210 compulsory notices issued last week would be rescinded.

The Natsopa executive is also likely to consider moves set in train by Mr Owen O'Brien, the union's general secretary, which if pursued would mean the union's national leadership taking over direct control of its London clerical branch.

Natsopa clerical chapel members yesterday by chapel officers wanted 225 job reductions in clerical departments, instead of the 330 asked for before.

Asked about that report last night, Mr Arthur Britten, corporate relations director of News International, said: "We have no agreed figures with the Natsopa clerical chapel. No position has been established between the company and the chapel. Contacts are being retained and further meetings are likely tomorrow."

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## MILK 'MAY HARM CHILDREN'

From Our Correspondent Gloucester

Gloucestershire County Council is being advised to reject subsidies for school milk because of fears that it would make the children fat and may lead to heart disease.

The county's education committee will be recommended to refuse to accept an offer of milk paid for by an EEC subsidy and by the Government. The council's personnel services subcommittee decided in January that the offer should be rejected, after advice from a doctor.

A council officer said the subcommittee was concerned about the prevalence of obesity in schoolchildren and about the evidence relating high cholesterol to heart disease.

The National Farmers' Union said it was urging members to lobby councillors to persuade them to accept the milk.

Mr Christopher Robbins, director of the Coronary Prevention Group, a charity formed to promote action to prevent heart disease, yesterday applauded the subcommittee's recommendation (Annabel Ferriman writes).

He said: "We sent a circular letter to all directors of education last summer advising on similar health grounds that it is inappropriate to be offering children exclusively full-fat milk. Since then the Department of Health and Social Security has published its leaflet, Avoiding Heart Attacks, which repeats its previously stated dietary advice to reduce total fat intake."

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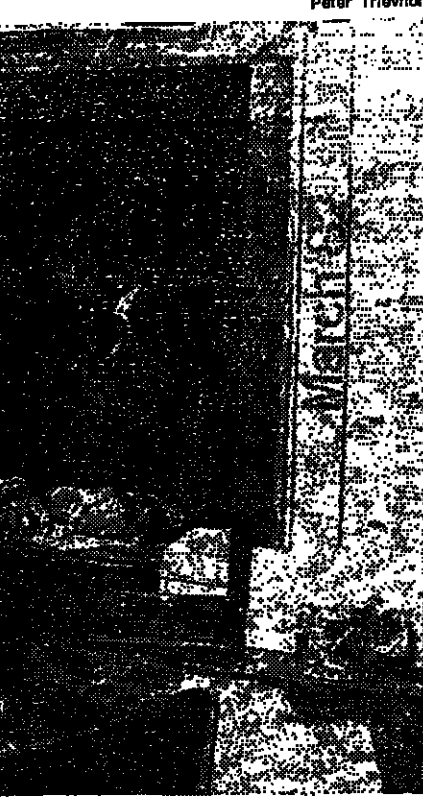
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## The Barbican's curtain rises from the ashes



## Know your enemy, former Marxist tells managers

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

A former Trotskyist leader with first-hand experience of organising strikes has advised industrial managers to "know your enemy" in the war against Marxist trade union activists.

He gives examples of methods used by Marxists to infiltrate shop floors, influence union meetings and rig strike votes.

Mr Roger Rosewell, one-time industrial organizer for the Socialist Workers Party but now a leading Social Democrat, warns companies: "The next two years will be extremely dangerous."

"Those who are eager for a fight with the Government are waiting for it to make mistakes and humiliate it in defeat," he says in a pamphlet published yesterday by Aims of Industry, the free enterprise organization.

Mr Rosewell, aged 38, relates how he joined the SWP as a full-time official at £30 a week in 1971, and for four years posed as a journalist on Socialist Worker while working mainly as a political agitator. Like others, he was given a press card by the Trotskyist-dominated magazine and book branch of the National Union of Journalists in London.

He now earns £10,000 a year lecturing and advising companies on industrial relations and extreme left-wing subversive tactics.

In his pamphlet, Mr Rosewell, a member of the SDP labour law reform working party, recounts his experiences in the early 1970s organizing SWP cells in occupations such as motor manufacturing and teaching.

"The first step to combating Marxist influence is a recognition of the problem and a determination to do something about it. The recent history of the Labour Party is littered with those who pool-pooled the Marxist threat only subsequently to fall victim to it."

"If chunks of British industry are not to go the same way, managers will have to wake up to the dangers that exist. As a beginning they have to know the names of the extremists and the organizations they belong to. Obviously this will

also include information-gathering on those groups who are active on the fringes of a work-place.

"This is not a call for a blacklist. It is simply a call for managers to show the same kind of professionalism and attention to detail which characterizes the Marxists. 'Know your enemy' is their slogan. Managers have to make it theirs as well."

He describes the Labour Party conference decision to set up factory branches as a sinister development. "These will be an ideal sheep's clothing for the Marxist infiltrators. Now there are even suggestions that the Communist Party will apply for affiliation to the Labour Party. All of the extremists are jumping on the same bandwagon."

Managers ought to maintain proper records on disrupters which could be used for publicity and to persuade moderate trade union officials to disown trouble-makers. They should examine whether time off for union duties is legitimate or just an excuse for Marxist activities.

"They have to question whether Marxists are manufacturing shop steward constituencies in order to slip into positions of power. They have to decide if they should refuse to accept the credentials of proven disrupters."

Disclosing how Trotskyists get into factories, he says: "Sometimes ex-students are told to apply for jobs in selected companies - car factories have always been a prime target for this kind of infiltration."

"On other occasions foremen are used to give jobs to party members. I remember fixing this up in a number of ways. Existing members might ask foremen to employ their friends... or else, contacts with unionised supervisors can be exploited. Some managers are themselves former members or sympathisers from university of shop-floor days."

"Marxists prout around in popular protest movements like the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament looking for potential recruits. They

try and sell their papers in areas where workers live, organize phoney petitions to find the names and addresses of left-wing inclined workers."

Every Marxist shop steward is drilled in running meetings and influencing their outcome. "Trade union branch meetings might be held in small, cold and dismal rooms with long agendas, and crucial matters left to the last item of 'any other business'. And whilst these tactics are designed to discourage ordinary members from attending meetings, arrangements for a strike will be quite different."

For indoor meetings, he says, Marxists try to find small halls with low ceilings and no seats. "With workers crammed in and unable to see what is happening around them, the conditions are ripe for excitement manipulation and the tricks of an illusionist."

Different tactics are used in open-air mass meetings. "Only the shop stewards are in a position to see and count the votes," he says. "Extremists put up both hands; most extremists congregate at the front in the hope of having a ripple effect on those massed behind them."

Mr Rosewell, a former aircraft industry fitter and a full-time official of the Association of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staffs before an acrimonious parting with Mr Clive Jenkins, its general secretary, admitted he could not recall one strike he had personally started. His chief role was to organize the strike and the training of SWP members.

He estimates that the Communist Party was still more effective in penetrating the unions than any other Marxist organization, but considers it "even money" between the CP and Trotskyists on the shop floor.

He concludes: "Marxist extremism is the enemy of working people. In every revolution it is they who suffer its consequences. That is why I broke from this organization and wrote this pamphlet."

Dealing with the Marxist Threat to Industry (Aims of Industry).

## TV levy sought for film makers

By Kenneth Gosling

The British Film Producers' Association has requested a meeting with Mr John Sprott, Under-Secretary of State at the Department of Trade, to discuss ways of raising money for film production, including a levy on films shown on television.

Mr Sprott took over responsibility for films on the resignation of Mrs Sally Oppenheim as Minister for Consumer Affairs. The number of British feature length films registered last year fell to 32 from 41 in 1980.

The film makers do, however, detect some encouraging signs. Such successful productions as *Chariots of Fire* and *Gregory's Girl* have put new heart into the industry, and overseas producers, notably the Americans, have made considerable use of British facilities and skills.

This year's production figure is expected to rise to nearly fifty feature films (those lasting more than 72 minutes). According to Mr Andrew Patrick, secretary of the producers' association, "We rather expected a fall in 1981, with the recession, and we had made representations to Mrs Oppenheim."

He had had meetings with her last August and September. Now we have told Mr Sprott we want to continue these fruitful discussions."

The group particularly wanted the Eady levy extended to encompass payment for films shown on television. "It is 400 per cent cheaper to show a two-hour film than to make a programme of the same length," Mr Patrick said.

Department of Trade figures released yesterday show the total number of films registered last year as 362 compared with 371 in 1980. The number of British short films made, those running for about half an hour or less, rose from 66 to 73.

The number of European Community films dropped from 38 to 27; American productions rose to 135 from 122 and films from other sources remained about the same at 58.

For the first time in 60 years, it is believed, British audiences outside London will be able to see a performance of Wagner's *Parsifal* when Welsh National Opera presents a production in the 1982-83 season. Christopher Warman writes.

*Parsifal* is one of seven new productions to enter the company's programme. It has been made possible by sponsorship from Amoco, after being postponed this year because of financial difficulties.

The last time anyone can remember *Parsifal* being performed in Britain outside London was in 1922. Welsh National Opera, which faced a possible deficit of £200,000 by the end of the financial year, said yesterday that it now expected to break even.

The other new productions will be Verdi's *Un Ballo in Maschera*, Giordano's *Anrea Chénier*, Janáček's *From the House of the Dead*, Bizet's *Carmen*, Handel's *Tamara* and Mozart's *Don Giovanni*.

A doctor whose affair with a woman patient came to light when the suspicious husband bugged his own telephone was ordered to be struck off the Medical Register in London yesterday.

The disciplinary committee of the General Medical Council found Dr Bryan Carroll, aged 57, of Selsdon Road, South Croydon, Surrey, guilty of serious professional misconduct. He has 14 days in which to appeal against the order.

Dr Carroll admitted adultery with Mrs Violet Feldmar, a mother of five, but denied that it amounted to serious professional misconduct.

The committee was told that transcripts of the doctor's conversations with Mrs Feldmar covered 100 pages. Mr Raymond Feldmar, of High Beech, South Croydon, was "devastated" when he discovered he was being cheated by "the one man whom he trusted and to whom he had confided the most intimate details of his married life."

Mr Timothy Preston, for the GMC said that the conversations included one about an arrangement for a photograph to take



## Dramatic turn from the Post Office

The British theatre provides the theme for four stamps to be issued on April 28, which mark Britain's participation in the conference of European Posts and Telecommunications. Ballet is featured on the 15p stamp to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the first Theatre Royal, Covent Garden. Harlequin on the 19p

stamp is a reminder of the first pantomime in 1723. The Royal Shakespeare Company's move to the Barbican Arts Centre is marked by the 26p stamp, featuring Hamlet and Yorick's skull and the 29p stamp features a woman opera singer in *The Beggar's Opera*, by John Gay, who died 250 years ago.

## Anger at doctor's non-stop week

By Annabel Ferriman, Health Services Correspondent

The King's health district, in south London, may be "black" by the British Medical Association because junior doctors are having to work for a week non-stop snatching what sleep they can between night calls.

The heavy rotas result from a ban on the use of locum doctors to cover for sickness and holidays. Junior doctors are therefore having to stand in for their colleagues.

Dr Michael Rees, the BMA junior doctors' leader, is to raise the matter at the association's council meeting today and will suggest that any advertisements in the *British Medical Journal* from the authority, which covers five hospitals including King's College, should be put in a black box, which warns people not to apply.

The ruling on locums for the first week of sickness and holiday cover, comes two weeks after a national conference of health service administrators, called by Sir Henry Yellowlee, chief medical officer at the Depart-

ment of Health and Social Security, which decided junior doctors' hours should be reduced.

Dr Rees said yesterday: "Doctors are being required to work continuously for a period of a week, which the whole profession has agreed is unacceptable. If money has to be saved, this is not the area in which authorities should try to do it, because they will be putting patients at risk."

The heaviest rotas the other areas involve doctors being on duty every other night.

Twenty junior doctors at King's College Hospital have written complaining to Dr Roger Williams, consultant physician at the hospital and chairman of the district management team. One of the juniors had also made a formal complaint to Mr Peter Rankin, the district personnel administrator.

Mr John Collinson, district administrator, said yesterday: "In the autumn it was clear that the medical

staffing budget had been overspent, so we have been reviewing locum cover.

"The consultants' medical committee decided just after Christmas to refuse to employ locums for juniors for the first week of sickness or for holidays and we expect the juniors to cover for their colleagues."

He said he could not comment further because the formal complaint was going through the grievance procedure.

## RATES DEFEAT

Nine Tories on Wiltshire County Council, voted with Labour and Liberals yesterday to defeat the ruling Tory group's budget motion. After party group meetings, Mr Nigel Anderson the Conservative chairman, moved a rate of 122.6p instead of the original 123p. The move, which was accepted, has the effect of cutting balances by £25,000 in a budget of £158m.

## Government attacked on homes claim

By Hugh Clayton, Environment Correspondent

Mr Owen Luder, president of the Royal Institute of British Architects, yesterday rejected Government claims that local councils had enough money in reserve to finance building programmes in the coming year. He dismissed as a red herring the statement on Monday by Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment, that councils had "underspent" by about £700m in the past 12 months.

Mr Luder made three criticisms of government housing policy in an interview with *The Times*. He said first that the figure of £700m quoted by Mr Heseltine might well be too high. It comprised £400m of housing capital receipts to local authorities and £300m of receipts from other sources.

The rate at which the authorities were paid such receipts in the first half of the present financial year suggested that the final total might well be closer to £650m. "As far as we can see, not all of the £700m is in, by any means," Mr Luder said.

He also criticized the Government for failing to publish long-term forecasts of capital allocations. "Until the Government comes out with a firm commitment to a properly financed public house building programme, local authorities will be inclined to continue treating these capital receipts as a buffer against the possibility of further cuts," he said.

By failing to stimulate the building of council and private houses the Government was contributing to a shortage that was bound to worsen.

His final criticism of Mr Heseltine was that the use of national figures observed the fact that the councils with money to spare were often not those with the greatest housing need. "If all this talk about underspending is giving anyone the impression that local authorities are not spending because they have no need for new housing, this would be completely contrary to all the facts," he said.

## MPs pass new court power over juveniles

By Frances Gibb

Magistrates will have a new power to order young offenders to be removed from their homes under one of the main proposals of the Criminal Justice Bill agreed by MPs in its committee stage yesterday.

The proposal, estimated to cost £1m, was one of the Government's chief pledges on law and order in its election manifesto and constituted a main plank of its White Paper on young offenders published in October, 1980.

Opposing the clause, which was carried by nine votes to seven, Mr Alexander Lyon, Labour MP for York and a former Minister of State at the Office, described it as a sop to the Magistrates' Association.

The new power, which its opponents have argued will increase the number of young offenders in care by between 500 and 1,000 a year, is available only to juvenile courts dealing with offenders who are already the subject of a care order made for a previous offence.

It amends the Children and Young Persons Act, 1969, to enable courts to make a care order for up to six months on a juvenile who has been ordered again, without being overruled by the local authority's power to allow the offender to be under the control of a parent, guardian or friend.

Replying for the Government, Mr Patrick Mayhew, Minister of State at the Home Office, said it was wrong to

call the measure a sop to the magistrates or imply it was a custodial measure. Without the measure, magistrates had no alternative but custody.

He accepted some of the new clauses tabled by Mr Robert Kilroy-Silk, Labour MP for Ormskirk.

Recently some magistrates expressed concern that the proposal would not be implemented by the Government, using the excuse of lack of funds. But in a letter Mr William Whitelaw, the Home Secretary, has assured the Magistrates' Association that although it will not be implemented without the extra funds being available, that would not be used as an excuse to sabotage a measure to which the Government was firmly committed.

Mr Lyon yesterday accused chief constables of mounting a campaign against shorter sentences. He referred to remarks made on Sunday by Mr Barry Pain, Chief Constable of Kent, and president of the Association of Chief Police Officers, at a conference in Coventry.

Mr Pain told editors and lawyers that the judiciary ought to take a firmer line and tell Mr Whitelaw, and Mrs Thatcher, that it did not want a "cosmetic exercise" in sentencing.

Mr Lyon said it was clear from Mr Pain's statement and from other recent leaks that the police were fighting back against the Home Secretary's policy.

## Painting the town red

By Michael Bailey, Transport Correspondent

The Greater London Council is to spend £200,000 on painting London's roads red to speed up the buses. If today's council meeting agrees about seven and a half miles of the capital's 26 miles of bus lanes will be painted red to deter cars from using them.

Experiments have shown that a coloured surface can significantly reduce the number of traffic violations and the programme will be launched in the inner sub-

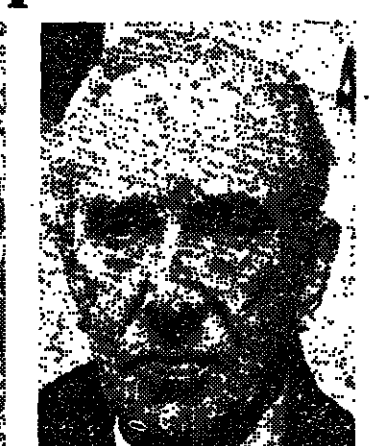
urbs of Camden, Westminster, Lambeth, Kensington, Islington, Southwark, Lewisham and Tower Hamlets. Brompton Road, Kensington High Street, Baker Street and Vauxhall Bridge Road are among the roads to be treated.

Mr Paul Moore, vice-chairman of the GLC transport committee, said yesterday: "Any measure which helps to keep buses on the move will get top priority."

## Bugged phone trapped cheating doctor



Mr Raymond Feldmar: "Cheated."



Dr Bryan Carroll: Took part in fantasies

pictures of Mrs Feldmar performing sexual acts in exchange for sexual services. "It was clear they were meeting frequently for the purposes of adultery," he said, and Dr Carroll admitted taking part in fantasies with Mrs Feldmar. The committee heard the couple's affair began when Mrs Feldmar refused to have sexual intercourse with her husband because he would not perform a sexual act with her which he found distasteful. Mr Feldmar became sus-

picious when a mysterious caller began to telephone their home. He monitored the calls and discovered his wife's affair and that they were performing sexual fantasies of the most perverse kind," Mr Preston said.

The calls showed that Dr Carroll was carrying out acts of sodomy upon this woman. It was clear he derived some sort of perverse pleasure out of hearing the woman describe over the telephone the act of her physically abusing herself," he said.

He said the doctor was guilty not only of a gross breach of trust and of shattering Mr Feldmar's life, but also of displaying obtained by him from the wife and husband relating to their marriage in order to gratify his own, largely perverted sexual desire.

Mr Feldmar first suspected his wife of infidelity in 1969 because of "compromising photographs" he found. After he consulted the doctor for help they were reconciled.

Five years later Mr Feldmar consulted Dr Carroll again when his wife began asking him to perform perverted sexual acts with her. The doctor advised Mr Feldmar not to indulge his wife in ways she was asking him to and once again he said he would try to help, Mr Preston said. By 1977 Mrs Feldmar was refusing to have sexual intercourse with her husband and the next year the telephone calls began.

Mr Feldmar successfully filed for divorce in 1980, naming Dr Carroll as co-respondent. A High Court battle for money and custody of their children is still not resolved, and an application to have yesterday's hearing in private was refused.

## NEWS IN SUMMARY

### Sutcliffe's wife given separation

Mrs Sonia Sutcliffe, the wife of Peter Sutcliffe, the Yorkshire Ripper, was granted a judicial separation in the London Divorce Court yesterday because of her husband's unreasonable behaviour.

Mrs Sutcliffe's uncontested judicial separation proceedings are understood to have been brought to protect her rights to a share in the couple's house in Garden Lane, Heaton, Bradford, West Yorkshire, which has an estimated value of £37,000 and is up for sale.

Further legal proceedings by Mrs Sutcliffe aimed at obtaining financial support from her husband, who is serving a life sentence, are pending.

Sutcliffe also faces other claims which could drain his assets. He must pay compensation to Mrs Irene MacDonald, mother of Jayne MacDonald, aged 16, who was his youngest victim. The amount due has not yet been fixed.

Sutcliffe, who is serving a life sentence for the murder of 13 women, is planning an appeal against his conviction, which is expected to be heard in May.

### Fans fined for kicking player

Two football supporters, Philip Cope, aged 21, and Michael Birchall, aged 24, both of Chorley, Lancashire, were fined £100 and £75 respectively by local magistrates yesterday for assault occasioning actual bodily harm on Mr Philip Owers, goalkeeper for Bishop Auckland.

The men were said to have kicked the player, later treated in hospital for concussion, during an invasion of the pitch after Bishop Auckland had beaten Chorley 1-0 in an FA Trophy match.

Counsel for the men, who admitted the charge, said they had been swept along by crowd hysteria, caused by aggressive play on the field.

### Pope to attend Polish rally

The Pope is to meet more than 20,000 of his fellow countrymen at a rally at Crystal Palace, in south London, on Sunday, May 30, organized by the Polish Catholic Mission (Our Religious Affairs Correspondent writes).

The Pope is an estimated 100,000 Poles in Britain, most of them exiles since World War II. The rally will be held in the National Sports Centre, and tickets will be distributed through a network of Polish priests in the Polish Catholic Mission.

### Electricity for three islands

Three Scottish islands, Colonsay, North Ronaldsay and Out Skerries, will be connected to mains electricity at a cost of £3,500,000, the North of Scotland Hydro-Electric Board said yesterday. The scheme will be eligible for a 30 per cent EEC grant.

### Doctor fined £100

A doctor and a milkman were both fined £100 at West Green Crown Court, North London, yesterday for committing an act of gross indecency with each other in a public lavatory. Dr Timothy John Healy, aged 36, of Abbot's Gardens, East Finchley, north London, and Paul Derek Clayton, aged 25, of St Margaret's Road, Tottenham, were said to be of previous good character.

### Chemicals in crash

Twenty people were treated in hospital yesterday after an articulated vehicle loaded with chemicals crashed into a roadside cottage and burst into flames on the A1 at Cockburnspath, Berwickshire. They were the driver, two people in their cottage and 17 fishermen, who inhaled fumes while at sea, about half a mile from the crash.

### Oyster fishing plea

More than 150 oystermen lobbied MPs at the House of Commons yesterday telling them that they face bankruptcy unless they are allowed to compete for the oysters on the beds at Calshot, near Southampton. They will be banned from dredging at Calshot unless a government order is revoked.

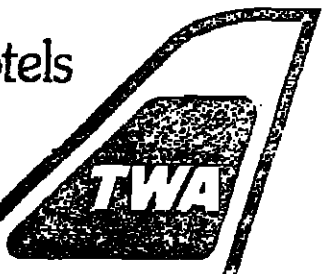
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## NEWS IN SUMMARY

## Zaire shuts border after clash

Lusaka.—Thousands of Zambians were reported to have fled their villages along the northern border with Zaire as tensions rose after a weekend exchange of fire between Zambian and Zairean soldiers near Mulufura, Zambia.

Reports reaching here said that the villagers had taken refuge at Ndola, principal town of the northern copper-belt province. Informed sources said Zambia lodged an official protest with Zaire after Zairean soldiers allegedly commandeered a bus and a lorry loaded with corn meal inside Zambia at the weekend and took them into Zaire, provoking the shooting.

Zambia demanded the immediate release of the people and vehicles, diplomatic sources said, but a Zambian Government spokesman said that a second bus had now been seized with its passengers and crew, and that Zaire had closed the border at Sakania.

## Nigerians queue for water

Lagos.—Nigerians were queuing for water and petrol yesterday on the fifth day of a national electricity and gas workers' strike, and Lagos radio announced the suspension of all Nigerian Airways flights because of industrial action by air traffic controllers.

Many petrol stations in Nigeria, one of the world's largest oil producers, had to close because they did not have standby generators for the fuel pumps. Hospitals told people to bring their own water because their pumps were out of action.

## Pilot's trick foils hijack



A passenger subdued a Cuban refugee who tried to hijack a Chicago-Miami flight to Havana.

United Airlines identified the would-be hijacker as Mr. Guillermo Alzaro Mejia Diaz, aged 23, and said he had threatened to blow up the Boeing 727, carrying 92 passengers with a bottle of inflammable liquid. The threatened pilot said that he was flying to Havana but landed instead at Miami where Mr. Diaz was handed to the FBI.

## Turkey bans magazine

Ankara.—The weekly *Ayris*, edited until last June by Mr. Bulent Ecevit, the former Turkish Prime Minister, was banned indefinitely by the martial law authorities.

The current editor, Mr. Nihat Duru, was released from prison last week after serving 2½ months for allegedly violating a decree banning political statements and criticism of the martial law authorities.

## Polisario under challenge

Madrid.—A pro-Moroccan Saharan Organization sent an appeal to the Organisation of African Unity urging it to disqualify the Algerian-backed Polisario as a representative of the Western Sahara people (Harry Debelius).

The Saharan Popular Revolutionary Front (FPRS), which broke away from the Polisario in 1975, declared itself "the legal and legitimate representative of the people of the Western Sahara" in an open letter to President Arap Moi of Kenya. The chairman of the OAU.

## X-ray check on prisoners

Ankara.—Four Palestinians convicted of attacking the Egyptian Embassy here in 1978 have been X-rayed to establish their ages, apparently because they could not be executed if they were under 18.

A civil court considering their appeal against the death sentence heard a medical report which said X-rays showed they were all over 20. The Palestinians have been sentenced to death twice: first by a military court and then by a civil court.



"How I love you, General Jaruzelski!"

## Full Brezhnev backing for Jaruzelski line

From Michael Binyon, Moscow, March 2

General Wojciech Jaruzelski today ended his two-day state visit here with ringing endorsement for his military Government from President Brezhnev and clear Soviet support for the indefinite continuation of martial law.

Describing separate meetings today with the Soviet party leader and with Mr. Nikolai Tikhonov, the Prime Minister, Tass spoke of the "warm, comradely atmosphere" the agency added that General Jaruzelski and Mr. Brezhnev had found an "identity of views on the question of discussing a phrase normally indicating that things have gone particularly well."

Both leaders spoke about the need to uphold the interests of the socialist community, clearly implying that General Jaruzelski accepted the right of the Soviet Union to insist on a full return to communist orthodoxy in Poland under the so-called Brezhnev doctrine.

They also said they would struggle against "imperialist threats, pressure and blackmail" referring to the talks they have had on coordinating their responses to Western sanctions.

Brief Tass communiqués today spoke of the need to strengthen party links between Poland and the

Soviet Union, as well as the development of political, economic and technical co-operation. Significantly, however, there has been no suggestion that the Russians are to offer Poland any further economic aid to help it overcome its crisis.

Last night, General Jaruzelski went out of his way to reassure his hosts of Poland's loyalty, telling President Brezhnev at a state banquet that Poland would never abandon the socialist road.

Mr. Brezhnev had earlier given unambiguous support to martial law, which he said had saved Poland from catastrophe. He also approved the purge of liberals and reformists from the Polish Communist Party in what he called the clearing of everything "extraneous and alien to socialism."

In his first visit abroad since imposing martial law 11 weeks ago, General Jaruzelski spent some time reassuring the Russians that the Communist Party, of which he is First Secretary, will be streamlined and rebuilt. He said the recent plenum, which affirmed hard-line orthodoxy, had pointed the way to the consolidation of Marxism-Leninism, while reaffirming the defence and strengthening of socialism. He also insisted that the

party, which has been eclipsed by the military Government, was still playing a guiding role in Poland.

The general has given no public hint what he intends to do about Solidarity, the formerly free trade union, which the Russians want to see disbanded altogether, nor when he will release detainees, a move strongly opposed by Moscow. But he insisted yesterday that his Government was still searching for "national concord."

While assuring the Russians that he understood their security interests in seeing a "strong, independent, socialist Poland", he emphasized that Polish tradition could not be forgotten.

Washington: Mr. Alexander Haig, the Secretary of State, said today that President Reagan had fashioned a strategy intended to lead the Western allies towards unified action over the Polish crisis (Mobsin Ali writes). This process, he said, was well underway.

After reviewing the economic and other sanctions imposed on the Soviet Union and Poland, Mr. Haig told the House of Representatives' foreign affairs committee: "We should not underestimate the impact of Western unity on both Poland and the Soviet Union."

## Senator threatens troop pull-out

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington, March 2

The withdrawal of American troops from Europe is being considered by Congress because of growing dissatisfaction over Europe's refusal to spend more on defence and because of the Soviet gas pipeline project.

Mr. Ted Stevens, the Republican whip in the Senate and chairman of the appropriations defence subcommittee today threatened to bring seriously considering introducing a Bill for a withdrawal of some of the 350,000 troops based in Western Europe.

He told a congressional hearing that such a move might be necessary because of growing West European cooperation with the Soviet Union, a reference to the Yamal gas pipeline which is expected to earn the Soviet Union billions of dollars in hard currency.

He was now proposing a total withdrawal of forces or

a withdrawal from Nato, but he emphasized that American voters were growing very impatient with the European partners, particularly West Germany.

Mr. Mike Mansfield made a similar request in the Senate for a cut in American troop strength in Europe a decade ago. His amendment was soundly defeated but the debate it engendered gave the Johnson Administration an important lever in bargaining with European governments to help offset the cost.

It seems unlikely that such a Bill would get much more support now than Mr. Mansfield's. However, feelings are running high, as was noted by General Bernard Rogers, Supreme Allied Commander in Europe, who told a senate subcommittee yesterday that there was "strong sentiment" for a troop reduction.

last year there has been a growing mood of dissatisfaction on Capitol Hill with America's European partners, particularly West Germany.

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## Missing needle claim may save von Bulow

From Adam Edwards, New York, March 2

A black washbag containing a hypodermic needle with traces of insulin, the most incriminating evidence against Claus von Bulow, who is charged with attempting to murder his wealthy wife, now becomes the focus of defence which opened its case this morning.

It presented a locksmith who had been hired by Mr. von Bulow's stepson, Prince Alex von Auersperg, to open a locked cupboard at the family's Newport mansion, Clarendon Court. The prince has testified he found the washbag, and needle in that cupboard that day.

It is alleged by the prosecution that the needle with traces of insulin was used by the former London barrister to inject his wife, Martha "Sunny" von Bulow, in December 1980 to put her into the irreversible coma in which she now lies in a New York hospital.

Mr. Marshall Salzman, a local locksmith, said that after he opened the locked cupboard with keys he found in the von Bulow's desk drawer he saw the prince and a private detective, Mr. Edwin

Lambert, search the closet.

"They did not find what they were looking for," Mr. Salzman said. Mr. Lambert said: "It's not there." The locksmith added that he relocked the cupboard and all three went into the kitchen. If the jury believes Mr. Salzman there is no evidence to link Mr. von Bulow to the alleged murder weapon.

Mr. Salzman said he remembered the event vividly because he was seeing the inside of one of the famous Newport mansions "without having to pay to get in and he wanted to give the full details to his wife later in the evening."

The second witness of the morning, the butler at Clarendon Court, Mr. Robert Bistro, testified that Mrs. von Bulow did drink alcohol and eat sweets. The defence claim that her condition was self-induced by overindulgence in sweets and alcohol while she had low levels of blood sugar.

Mr. Bistro also said that during his 10 years with the von Bulow family he never once thought Mr. von Bulow would harm his wife.

## PRIEST ON SMUGGLING CHARGE

From Piers Akerman, New York, March 2

A Roman Catholic priest who performed voluntary work for the Holy See mission to the United Nations was one of four people arrested yesterday and charged with smuggling stolen Italian art treasures into the United States.

The Rev. Lorenzo Zorzi, aged 34, was arrested at St. Agnes Church, where he lives, two blocks from the United Nations. He was released on Monday night pending the signing of a \$30,000 bail bond in Manhattan Federal Court by official of the Consulate General of Somerset, New Jersey, to which he belongs. Members of the order take a vow of poverty.

The priest allegedly acted as a courier to bring artwork from Italy, according to papers filed at the court by the United States Customs Department. Signor Giordano Garudi, aged 52, an art restorer from Cremona, Italy, Mr. Achilles Renzullo, aged 51, partners in Ital-Craft Inc., a furniture importing firm in New York, were the others arrested.

## Poles give assurance to creditors

From Peter Norman, Brussels, March 2

Poland has told its Western creditor banks that it still wants to sign the agreement rescheduling \$2,400m (about £1,200m) of debt due last year and that it intends to pay all the interest it still owes from 1981.

The assurances came after a message last week by bank creditors to Mr. Marian Krzak, the Finance Minister and the Bank Handover in Warsaw when it became apparent that the Poles would not be in a position to sign the rescheduling agreement as hoped on March 4.

The group which represents Poland's 500 or so creditor banks accused Warsaw of a "serious breach of faith" in failing to pay the banks all the \$500m of interest due.

Banking sources say Poland has continued to pay interest in small amounts, so that about \$50m is now outstanding. But the Western banks refused to go ahead with signing the rescheduling agreement without being sure that the cash has been handed over.

It is a measure of the steady, grinding foreign acceptance of martial law that the rooms, two months ago as mysteriously deserted as the cabins of the Marie Celeste — half-eaten room-service meals gathering in militarized dust in the corridors — are beginning to fill up again. Not that the hotel ever stood much of a chance of operating in profit, despite the regular staple of journalists and television crews, but the losses are at least under control again. The staff, after about two weeks of martial law, outnumbered the guests by about five to one. Now the incessantly piped Western music is back and it is no longer a reasonable assumption that everybody in the foyer is an agent provocateur.

As befitts a hotel that charges more than the average monthly Polish wage for a night's stay, the national crisis is seen as through a prism or distorting mirror. Of the 100-odd



## Embassy gatecrashers

A Ukrainian couple, escorted by an American consular official, leaving the United States Embassy in Moscow yesterday after driving at high speed through the embassy gates, forcing Soviet

militiamen guarding the entrance to leap aside. After five hours of pleading with American officials for political asylum they decided to leave. Agents of the KGB were waiting for them.

## Access to jail sought at Aggett inquest

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg, March 2

The inquest into the death of Dr. Neil Aggett, the young white trade unionist who was found hanged in his prison cell on February 5, opened today in the Johannesburg Magistrates' Court, but was adjourned after only 45 minutes until April 13.

The request for the postponement was made by Mr. George Bizos, appearing for Dr. Aggett's family to allow time for permission to be sought from Mr. Louis Le Grange, Minister of Police, for access to fellow detainees of the dead man.

Mr. Bizos, a veteran of many civil rights cases, said there was reason to believe that other detainees who were in the vicinity of Dr. Aggett at the time of his

death have important information without which the lawyers representing the family would "not be able to make a meaningful contribution to the inquest."

Mr. L. V. de Kock, the magistrate, rejected a plea from Mr. Bizos for an immediate on-the-spot inspection of the cells and interrogation rooms at the John Vorster Square prison, where Dr. Aggett was held and questioned under section six of the Terrorism Act.

While admitting that he had the authority to order such a visit, the magistrate objected to it saying that it would be wrong to "surprise" the police, who would need to be given time to find

## Letter from Warsaw

## A peep through the distorting mirror in the Ship of Fools

The bloodstains of Abu Daoud, the Palestinian shot dead in Warsaw last August, are still just about discernible in the green carpeting outside the Hotel Victoria coffee shop. The national shortage of detergent is at fault, of course (blamed in turn, like most things, on the misguided policies of Mr Edward Giersek) but the dark red ink-blot is also a grim reminder of the dangers of drinking coffee in Warsaw hotels.

German correspondents call the Victoria Hotel the *Narvenschiff* (the Ship of Fools) for it languishes in the Polish capital's Victory Square like a beached ocean liner, coned off by soldiers, apparently untouched by the crisis. The passenger list includes almost every important foreign visitor to Warsaw since martial law was imposed: a curious mix of breed: Libyans on their way to officer training somewhere in Poland, Syrian trade delegations, American concert pianists, French and Swedish businessmen (one make a quick franc or krona from the crisis).

A Dutch businessman recently passed through en route to Gdansk, where he ordered the hulls of six ships, reasoning correctly that the dearth of orders would result in low prices and swift delivery. Not much possibility nowadays of strike action delaying production.

It is a measure of the steady, grinding foreign acceptance of martial law that the rooms, two months ago as mysteriously deserted as the cabins of the Marie Celeste — half-eaten room-service meals gathering in militarized dust in the corridors — are beginning to fill up again. Not that the hotel ever stood much of a chance of operating in profit, despite the regular staple of journalists and television crews, but the losses are at least under control again. The staff, after about two weeks of martial law, outnumbered the guests by about five to one. Now the incessantly piped Western music is back and it is no longer a reasonable assumption that everybody in the foyer is an agent provocateur.

As befitts a hotel that charges more than the average monthly Polish wage for a night's stay, the national crisis is seen as through a prism or distorting mirror. Of the 100-odd

dishes offered on the menu, about 10 are actually available. Of these, about six are edible — but only providing that consumption is not done too regularly or too slowly. The technique, long-term residents insist, is to concentrate on the whole rather than the details.

It is a luxury hotel, but in Poland even luxury is rationed. The swimming pool resembles a stagnant wishing well because of the chlorine shortage; the sauna is closed because of the energy crisis; and martial law means that the telephones are down.

In Solidarity's Poland, 10 weeks or 10 months ago, it was commonplace to bump into celebrities, often wrapped in expensive furs or, as in the case of Roman Polanski, seen here in the summer, teetering on oddly built-up heels. Solidarity leaders like Janusz Onyszkiewicz, too busy and too important to spare time during the day, were happily wined and dined in the downstairs restaurant at the Victoria, while upstairs Mr. Mieczyslaw Rakowski, the Deputy Prime Minister, would swap stories with selected journalists.

Now Mr. Onyszkiewicz is in the Bialoleka internment camp and Mr. Rakowski is busy justifying martial law. One rather tenuous theory is that martial law was planned in one of the Victoria restaurants, which would explain many things.

Now it is the province of journalists and spies: Oriana Fallaci breezes in; one of Warsaw's top black marketers breezes out. Perhaps because of the growth (a collective noun for the profession) of correspondents, there is an obsession about security.

The most noticeable feature of martial law has been the soldiers in the streets and the unpleasant presence of Zomo riot police. But the new factor that has changed everybody's lives, strangled spontaneous comment and open discussion, has been the reemergence from the shadows of the secret police. Nowhere are they more evident than in the hotel, for they probably work on the assumption that large percentages of foreign visitors must be spies or agents provocateurs.

It is assumed — and was even before martial law — that most rooms are bugged, that there is a central recording room. It is said

that a man leaves the hotel at five every morning with a case full of tape-recordings for the archives of the Interior Ministry. The more junior, and therefore more candid, of the hotel staff seem to believe this too, so it seems safe to say this is not a fantasy.

Certainly all telephone calls out of the hotel are monitored — a shrill, tinny, automatically recorded voice intrudes before every conversation to remind us of the fact. This is both irritating and an unexpected courtesy.

There are also security men specifically detailed to keep an eye on guests, working in pairs. The most obvious team is that of a burly character with the moustache of a Ruritanian hussar accompanied by a sallow man in the traditional Terylene brown suit of his profession. When, some days after the declaration of martial law, a *Sunday Mirror* reporter arrived in the hotel with a visa-less passport (having travelled in the baggage car of the Vienna-Warsaw express), the receptionist summoned the team who whisked him swiftly away to a special room. That was the last Western sighting of the reporter for some days.

Yet there is elasticity in the system, as there is in the country at large. On many evenings, an Army Jeep draws up outside the hotel and on at least two observed occasions, a hall porter has brought out bottles of vodka, which have become something of a substitute currency. The Jeep then drives away. Soon afterwards, the girls are in evidence, touting official disapproval of the management, with the kind of enthusiasm rarely seen in the Polish economy nowadays.

The illegal money-changers are a different matter, for their business is more conspicuous and in any case they are finding it hard to persuade foreigners that they are genuine and not agents provocateurs.

But throughout the dark, early days of martial law, when receptionists and cashiers seemed to be constantly in tears, one wistful figure remained — a tall, bearded, old man. An icon salesman who has never in the recent history of the hotel been known to sell anything.

Roger Boyes

## Victory for Begin in Sinai vote

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem, March 2

The Israeli Government tonight defeated a motion of no confidence on its handling of preparations for the final withdrawal on the occupied Sinai, by 58 votes to four, with 43 abstentions mostly from the opposition Labour Party.

The motion was submitted by the extreme right-wing Tehiya (Renaissance) Party, a number of whose leaders are among protesters who have recently moved into the Sinai settlement of Yamit as part of the campaign to thwart the final handover to Egypt due to take place on April 25.

Closing the debate, Mr. Meacham Begin, the Prime Minister, told deputies that there was no question of his Government surrendering to a minority trying to impose its will on the majority. "We are fighting for peace," he said.

In a pledge designed to remove any remaining doubts about his determination to carry out the agreements reached at Camp David, Mr. Begin said that this Government will fulfill all the obligations it took upon itself in the peace treaty with Egypt.

Tel Aviv: Major General Yehoshua Saguy, director of Israeli military intelligence said today that the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) in Lebanon had doubled its fire capacity directed at towns and settlements in Galilee since the ceasefire of July last year (Moshe Brilliant writes).

He made the claim at a conference for the foreign press and was careful to discourage speculation that he was preparing public opinion for an Israeli strike at terrorists. "If you are asking whether this meeting was called to create an atmosphere for Israel doing something the answer is no," he said.

Bonn: — West Germany has expressed its regret and displeasure to Israel over a personal attack on Herr Helmut Schmidt, the Chancellor, by Mr. Begin (Reuters reports). Mr. Begin had said in a statement that Herr Schmidt should follow the example of his predecessor, Herr Willy Brandt, and go down on his knees at the site of the wartime Jewish ghetto in Warsaw to plead forgiveness for what his people and Nazi rule did to the Jewish people.

## Damascus denounces US envoy

From Robert Fisk, Beirut, March 2

Mr. Philip Habib, President Reagan's special Middle East envoy, arrived in Damascus today to be met by the Syrian Deputy Foreign Minister and a familiar barrage of press criticism.

"Once again," said the government daily *Tishreen*, "the United States Administration has not given its envoy the grounds which would make his trip successful."

Given the condemnation of the United States that always presages Mr. Habib's visits to Syria, it might be thought surprising that President Assad's Government was even prepared to allow the diplomat to enter the country.

The truth is that the Syrians still want to maintain the dialogue with Washington and that Mr. Habib — who is of Lebanese parentage and has proved himself a highly discreet negotiator — is now accepted by the Syrian authorities as an honest enough broker.

But it is somewhat embarrassing for the Syrians to welcome the representative of a government which in January vetoed United Nations mandatory sanctions against Israel for its annexation of the Golan Heights.

It was for this reason that Tishreen said today that the United States took "a one-sided view of the Arab-Israeli conflict, seen through the Zionist eye, and asked what kind of success Mr. Habib sought for his mission 'in the shadow of such an imbalance'."

Nevertheless, he is a valuable source of information on Israeli strategic thinking, and the Syrians are anxious to know how seriously they should take its repeated suggestion that it might invade southern Lebanon.

## BOMB BLAST IN KHARTUM

Khartum, March 2.—A car bomb exploded near a main fuel depot in a Khartum suburb and a parcel bomb was defused, the Sudan news agency reported today.

Security officials blamed Libyan and Communist saboteurs. The first bomb was placed in a Datsun in a suburb 4 miles to the north-east of Khartum. No casualties were reported. The parcel bomb was delivered to a newspaper office. —AP.



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Robert Fisk  
March 2

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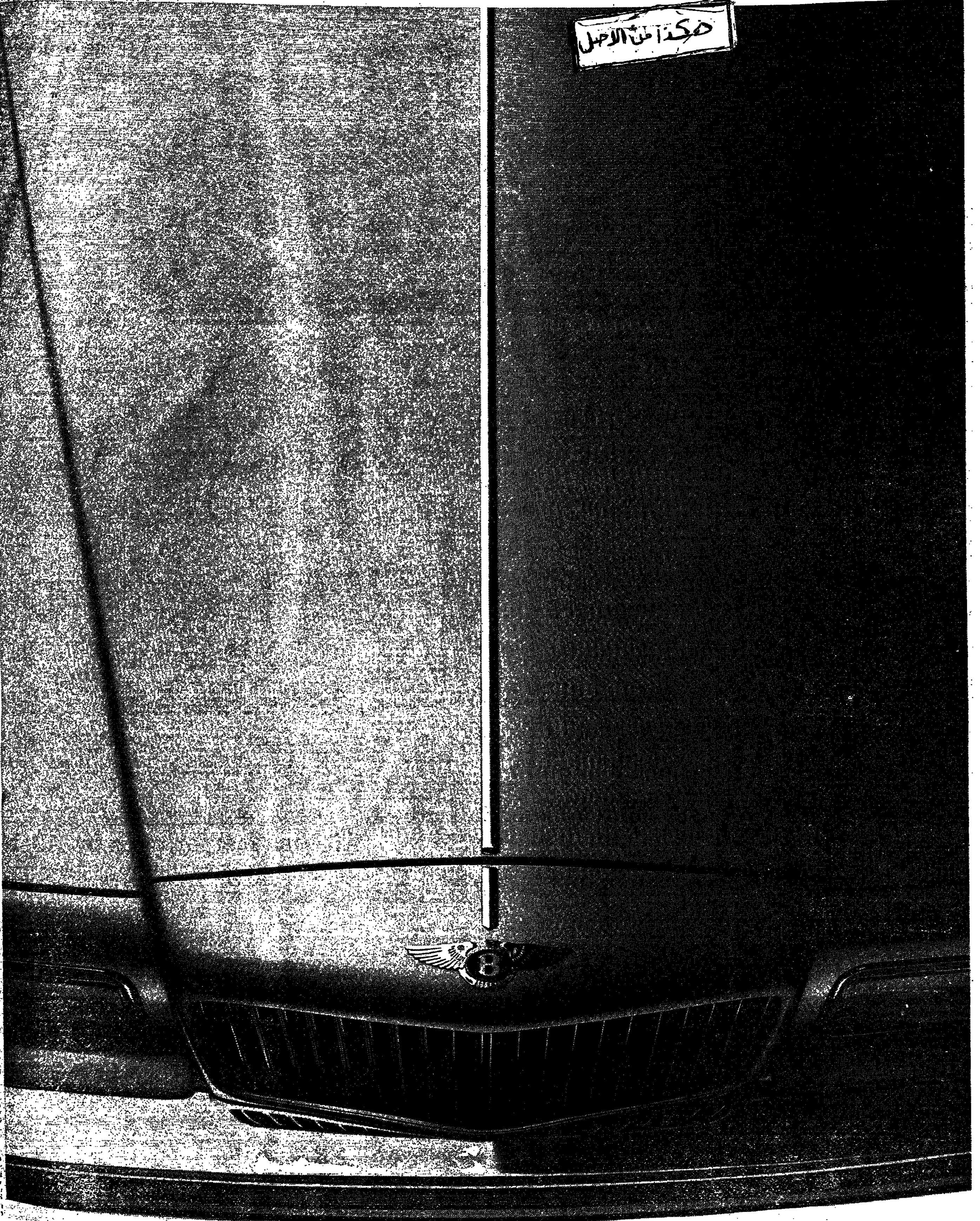
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## MB BLAST KHARTUM

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هكذا على الاصل



# THE RUMOURS ARE ALL TRUE.

Today a new Bentley will be announced  
at the Salon de l'Automobile, Geneva.  
The Bentley Mulsanne Turbo.  
It is the first Bentley for 30 years to differ  
substantially from its companion marque,  
the Rolls-Royce.

It has a top speed that is comfortably in  
excess of 130 m.p.h.  
It accelerates smoothly from 0 to 60  
in 7.4 seconds.  
And it achieves these figures through  
the remarkable power of its turbo-charged  
V8 engine.

Even for a Bentley it is an impressive car.  
In fact the Rolls-Royce engineers who  
designed it are just a little disappointed that  
such a car does not carry the Rolls-Royce  
name.

Or so rumour has it.

BENTLEY MOTORS LIMITED · CREWE · CHESHIRE.

A Vickers company.



## NEWS IN SUMMARY

## Kim's jail sentence reduced

Seoul. — Mr Kim Dae-jung, the leading South Korean dissident, was among 2,863 people granted varying degrees of amnesty by President Chun Doo-hwan to mark the anniversary of the country's Fifth Republic (Jacqueline Reder writes).

Mr Kim, aged 55, a former presidential candidate who was sentenced to death for sedition in 1980 but reprieved in January, 1981, had his life sentence cut to 20 years.

He was found guilty by a military court of fomenting student riots and a civilian uprising in the provincial capital of Kwangju in an attempt to topple the Government by force. He has always maintained his innocence. Thirteen people imprisoned with Mr Kim also had their sentences reduced.

## Duke to see animal rescue

Colombo. — The Duke of Edinburgh piloted an Andover of the Queen's flight for his arrival in Sri Lanka for a three-day visit as president of the World Wildlife Fund.

He was met at the airport by President Jayewardene and was taken to Wilpattu, the country's biggest natural reserve, to which elephants displaced from their natural habitat by the Mahaveli river diversion scheme are to be driven. The Duke will be presented with a two-year-old orphaned elephant.

## Bulgarian party officials ousted

Sofia. — Mr Zhivko Popov, a candidate member of the Bulgarian Communist Party's Central Committee, was stripped of his post and party membership for a "criminal offence" amid important changes in the upper party echelons. In its report on the Central Committee session, the official news agency BTA did not say what Mr Popov's wrongdoing was.

Mr Mircho Spasov, another Central Committee member, was also expelled from the party without official explanation.

## Blast on ship stays unsolved

Paris. — A French Government inquiry into the 1979 fire on the French oil tanker Betelgeuse in Bantry Bay, in which 50 people died, has refused to assign any responsibility for the disaster.

The report, published after two years' investigations, says that it "must clearly state that it has not elucidated the immediate causes of the disaster". The Irish Government's inquiry found that the hull of the tanker had been abnormally weak.

## Eight cleared of bombing

Rome. — The Brescia appeal court cleared eight right wingers of the bombing which killed eight people and injured 102 during an anti-fascist rally in the city's main square eight years ago (John Earle writes).

The judges, after retiring for 193 hours — one of the longest deliberations in Italian legal history — quashed a conviction confirmed by the acquittal by a lower court of seven defendants on a charge of causing a massacre.

## Peking squares up to the cube

Peking. — Rubik's cube is enjoying a big vogue in China, but the Chinese have been warned by the People's Daily that it can be a terrible time-waster and lead to all kinds of mishaps. One article reported the case of a young bakery worker whose leaves went up in smoke because he was busy playing with the cube. About 300,000 cubes have been sold in Peking.

## Mitterrand takes big gamble with Israel visit

From Charles Hargrove, Paris, March 2.

President Mitterrand leaves tomorrow on a three-day state visit to Israel which truly deserves the description of historic.

The important thing about the visit is the fact that it is taking place at all and that the French President has chosen to demonstrate in this spectacular fashion his friendship for the Jewish state.

He is taking a tremendous gamble, his purpose being to prove that one can be the friend of Israel while at the same time remaining the friend of the Arabs. But he runs the risk of falling short of Israeli expectations and of endangering his country's relations with the Arab states.

But he thinks the possibility, however small, that his visit might help to advance the cause of peace in the Middle East is worth these risks.

He knows that he will be talking on the radio and that his every word and gesture will be scrutinized in Israel and in every Arab capital for signs of concessions to one or the other point of view.

The length of his stay has been calculated to coincide exactly with that of his visit to Saudi Arabia last year and in the two speeches he will make, at the state banquet tomorrow night and before the Knesset the following day, he means to hammer in the same home truths as he expressed in Riyadh.

These are that Israel has the right to live within safe, recognized and guaranteed frontiers, but also that the Palestinians have the right to a state.

Because he is a long time friend of Israel, President Mitterrand has felt that he could go further than any of his predecessors in urging it to negotiate with the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) as the most representative Palestinian organization, and to grant the Palestinians those rights which it claims for itself.

His friendship being unquestioned, he feels entitled to tell the Israeli Government that he does not endorse all aspects of its policy.

In a way, President Mitterrand's visit is comparable in its significance, if not in its practical results, to the journey to Israel five years ago by President Sadat.

It does not take place under very favourable auspices. Mr Menachem Begin, the Israeli Prime Minister, has hardly made things easy for his French guest. The visit had to be postponed twice, because of the Israeli attack on the Iraqi nuclear centre at Tammuz and the Israeli annexation of the Golan.

Jerusalem: When President Mitterrand and his 130-member entourage arrives at Ben Gurion airport tomorrow, he will become the first President of France and only the second European head of

state to pay an official visit to Israel since its foundation (Christopher Walker writes).

For those two reasons alone, the symbolic value of the crowded three-day schedule — which will include a brief ceremony at the former prison in Acre where before independence the British executed Jews found guilty of acts of terrorism — is seen as highly significant by an Israeli Government conscious of its growing isolation.

Considerable energy has been devoted to ensuring its success. A member of the Prime Minister's staff said that Mr Begin had given orders for the tour to be planned "with the maximum goodwill, to afford M Mitterrand the utmost convenience, and to show him every possible respect as a friend of Israel in general and a personal friend of Menachem Begin in particular".

Inevitably, much attention will focus on the question of arms supplies, which were temporarily suspended under the embargo of 59 Mirage M5 jets in 1967 and have never been resumed. Although the French Defence Minister is not included in the official party, Israeli sources claim that a future meeting between him and his Israeli counterpart, Mr Ariel Sharon, has already been scheduled.

There is also speculation that Mr Begin plans to ask the French to provide Israel with a nuclear reactor for generating electricity. There has been no confirmation from official sources, but it is noted here that France has already announced its intention of supplying Iraq with a research reactor to replace that destroyed last year by Israeli aircraft.

Doha, Qatar. — Mr Douglas Hurd, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, was quoted today, as saying that the United States should co-ordinate with Europe "and convince Israel... to sit down with the Palestinians" at the negotiating table (AP report).

It is necessary that the United States and Europe undertake to coordinate and seek to convince Israel to change its policy at this time when the Arabs are trying to reach a unified strategy, he said in an interview with the Qatar news agency. "If the Israelis and the Palestinians can be brought together around a negotiating table, this will be a good opportunity."

Mr Hurd said that the American move in establishing a rapid deployment Middle East force was important to make it clear to the Russians "that it would be illogical to carry out a venture like that they undertook in Afghanistan... that such an enterprise in the Gulf will be met by reactions from outside the area."

He did not believe there was an imminent Soviet threat to the Gulf.

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## Carrington speaks up for British companies

From Charles Harrison, Nairobi, March 2.

Britain, with other members of the Western contact group, wants to see a negotiated settlement in Namibia, the Foreign Secretary, Lord Carrington, told Kenya's foreign Minister, Dr Robert Ouko, here today.

Lord Carrington, who is on a five-day visit to Kenya, had talks with several Kenyan ministers, including Mr Ouko, to discuss the settlement in Namibia, which is the subject of a meeting between President Daniel Arap Moi, the current chairman of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU).

At a lunch given in his honour today, Lord Carrington reminded Dr Ouko that Britain is Kenya's biggest aid donor and trading partner and he referred to concern that Britain is losing ground to other trading nations which give extended credit or other inducements.

"Our companies are not afraid of competition provided that they are allowed to compete on equal terms — and I am sure that is what the government of Kenya would wish to see happen," he said.

This afternoon Lord Carrington travelled to the area north of Mount Kenya, to study progress on a new road project.

Britain's biggest aid package to Kenya, totalling about £13.6m, was announced last year. British aid to Kenya amounted to £27m with another £10m invested by the Commonwealth Development Corporation. Lord Carrington said Britain's aid policy was to strengthen important sectors of the Kenyan economy, to aid manpower skills with training schemes and to provide qualified people to work in higher education and other selected fields.

## A capital facelift



Cement, steel and sweat: Changes at the old market area of Les Halles and the Gare d'Orsay (below).

## Noise of culture grows in Paris

From Jonathan Fenby, Paris, March 2

For once, President Mitterrand and Jacques Chirac, the neo-Gaullist leader and Mayor of Paris, are in agreement on something — major projects which will substantially alter the French capital by the end of the decade.

Nine big developments are at various stages of building or planning, involving housing, offices, parks, museums, sports facilities, an international music centre and a new opera house.

The development of Paris was a regular bone of contention between M Chirac and M Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, the former President. Each had firm and conflicting convictions about the merits of various projects. Their disagreement reflected the ambivalent nature of Paris as both a city in its own right and the seat of the national Government, whose members have often shown themselves keen to interfere in its affairs in the past.

Having won election as the Mayor of Paris in 1977, when the post was established as an important political and administrative position, M Chirac has been particularly anxious to assert his independence of the central Government.

Now, however, he and Mitterrand appear to be in harmony about the development programme, and a meeting between the two men in mid-February went off smoothly.

The President, who is anxious to go down in history as a promoter of French culture, is particularly keen on a new "popular" opera house at the Bastille, with 2,500 seats in two halls and a "city of music" on the site of the former slaughterhouse at La Villette. The Villette site, a notorious white elephant of Paris city planning, will also contain a 30,000 square metre science and industrial museum and a large park, according to present plans.

Another museum, devoted to France between 1850 and 1914, is being installed in the former Gare d'Orsay station on the left bank of the Seine. Due to be opened in 1985, the museum will be linked by a pedestrian bridge across the river to the Louvre, which will be devoted entirely to culture after Finance Ministry officials have been moved out of the 40,000 square metres of floor-space they occupy.

The President and Mayor are also reported to have reached agreement on the final shape of the former central market area, Les Halles. Cheap apartment buildings, a hotel, shops and a block of luxury flats will go up round the huge hole in the ground which has been a feature of the site for years. A five-hectare park with 800 trees to bring some open space to the area and the hole itself will be filled with an Olympic-sized swimming pool, an aquarium, a gymnasium and shops.

More sporting facilities will be provided in the east of the city at an "international sports palace" in the former wholesale wine market at Bercy, together with more

cheap housing and a park. On the other side of Paris, the housing and office complex that went up at La Defense in the 1970s is due to be completed by the end of the decade with new tower blocks, raising its total capacity to 9,000 apartments and 1.5 million square metres of office space.

Other sites earmarked for development include the sprawling former Citroën motor plant on the Quai

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## Chinese officials accused of £370,000 racket

From David Bonavia, Peking, March 2

Two officials in Henan province have been arrested after allegedly making the equivalent of £370,000 from the illegal sale of more than 700 motor vehicles. They are also accused of trading illegally in expensive traditional medicines such as ox genitals.

This is the latest disclosure from a number of corruption investigations being carried out throughout China. Others involve smuggling, dealing in contraband goods, bribery and nearly all imaginable forms of graft.

The anti-corruption drive has been regarded with a certain degree of scepticism by members of the public, who are aware that more senior people and their relatives have been allowed to get away with abuse which are being vigorously prosecuted at lower levels.

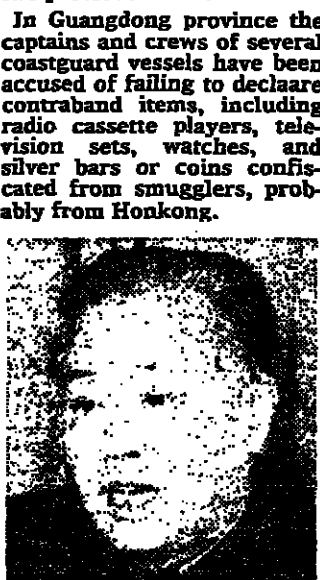
A leading national newspaper has been receiving numerous anonymous letters calling for the exposure of a senior party leader's son who has allegedly used his father's rank to escape being brought to justice for his misdeeds.

So far the Communist Party has not allowed investigation of any cadres higher than the rank of bureau chief. Ministers, senior state officials and members of the party's Central Committee have remained exempt.

In the Henan case the two people arrested, Mr Chen Xihai and Mr Cao Zhenshan, are said to have carried out their illegal vehicle trade — saloons, lorries, motorcycles and tractors — in 15 different provinces and cities. They are to go on trial soon in Anyang. Five other government and party officials have been arrested in connection with the case.

Those linked with the profits include a local hotel manager and an assistant bank manager who is said to have approved large loans to Chen, knowing that he had two previous convictions.

In Guangdong province the captains and crews of several coastguard vessels have been accused of failing to declare contraband items, including radio cassette players, television sets, watches, and silver bars or coins confiscated from smugglers, probably from Hongkong.



Mr Zhao Ziyang: Looking for drastic pruning.

Mr Zhao Ziyang, the Prime Minister, proposed today that ministries and central commissions should cut their staff by one third to boost efficiency, the official Kinhua news agency reported.

He said that the number of vice-premiers should be reduced as well as the number of ministries and commissions — from the present 98 to 52. China has 13 vice-premiers at present. — AP

## Pill reduces the ranks

From Patricia Clough, Bonn, March 2

Not one West German serviceman has yet fallen in battle, but before long the Bundeswehr will be hit by a weapon against which it has no defence — the Pill.

Bundeswehr commanders are searching for solutions to the problem of the sharp plunge in the birthrate from a peak of around 1,065,000 in 1964 to 576,400 in 1978.

In five years, they reckon there will not be enough 18-year-old men for the annual requirement of 220,000 recruits.

No answers have yet been worked out, but the most likely includes extending service beyond the present 15 months and recruiting women, who would not be allowed to carry arms.

Conscripts now account for half the 495,000-strong Bundeswehr and no one here is suggesting any change at present.

## Sullen mood in Kabul

From Karan Thapar, Kabul

## Afghans feel forsaken by Allah

It was an unaccustomedly mild January in Kabul this year. Although the barren brown hills surrounding the capital had been lightly dusted with snow the city itself was untouched. The usual severity of a central Asian winter was absent.

"Allah is not pleased," was the explanation I was given in Kabul. "This strange weather is an indication that he is not happy with Afghanistan."

Two years previously when the Soviet Army had marched across Afghanistan's unfenced northern frontier, Allah's displeasure brought an exceptionally severe and prolonged winter. Then Kabul was covered in snow and blasted by freezing winds off the Hindu Kush well into May. This year the sun shines warmly out of clear skies and the air is still, as if expectant. For a tough but simple-living people these are signs from heaven that God has temporarily forsaken them.

Consequently, despite the sunshine and warmth, Kabul is cast in despondency and gloom. Try hard as they do to reassert the shattered daily routine of their lives, to rebuild for themselves a sense of meaning and purpose, the city remains for its inhabitants a strange and irreversibly changed place.

During the brief 10 hours of winter daylight Afghans feel free to walk about their capital. Then they hurry on their way, no longer pausing to chat on street corners or stroll through gardens, no longer tarrying in shops or lingering in restaurants.

The day ends dramatically when offices close. After dusk the city is a graveyard of shuttered windows, bolted doors, dead traffic lights and deserted roads. Curfew starts at 10 pm, but the capital is empty by sunset and taxis cease operating before 8 o'clock. After dark Kabul transforms itself into a Soviet military cantonment as Russian soldiers, tanks and armoured cars rumble through its streets, providing a fitting counterpoint to the only other audible noises of the night — the half-crazed barking of stray dogs shivering in the cold.

Local humour has begun to reflect the cruel change. A macabre joke has it that an

Afghan soldier shot a passer-by half an hour before the evening curfew. When questioned by his commanding officer why he had done it, the soldier replied: "I know this man. He lives right at the other end of town and he would never have got home before curfew. So, rather than leave the job to someone else, I shot him myself."

In the hills around Kabul, once picturesque resorts with pink and white blossoms beside whistling freshwater streams, the wintry silence is interrupted now by the staccato reverberations of rifle fire as mujahideen braves shoot it out with Soviet troops.

In Paghman or Istalif, Rishkor or Charikar, where a decade ago king and commoner alike escaped to picnic settings evocative of Omar Khayyam, tarpaulin-covered tanks stand, inescapable reminders of the hated occupation.

Ever since the Russians have come, these resorts have gone quiet: their little thatched and wooden cafés, terraces closed and their boisterous houses shut. At Karga Lake, romantically against snow-covered hills with flamingoes on its shores, the once famous Spasmal restaurant has turned to farce. Everyday its doors are opened, the tables laid, the napkins starched and set — but the public never comes. The waiters idle their day squatting by the radio, staring mindlessly across the water.

Kabul's shopkeepers face the same dilemma: how to spend the waking hours sitting in their shops waiting for customers who will not come. Their eager voices no longer ring out across the dirty gullies, beckoning clients. Instead they sit huddled in blankets, sipping tea and waiting for the day to end.

During the last two years Afghans have accepted the futility of adding to their material possessions at a time of political and national uncertainty. Many fear the consequences of spending money. Others simply do not have any to spend.

But for the Russians, Kabul's well stocked bazaars are a shopping paradise. Supermarkets overflowing with Levi jeans and Inigo

Jones shirts, with Parker pens and American cookies, with French cosmetics and Italian suits are an irresistible temptation. Soldier and civilian adviser alike marvel at the crowded shelves with all the delight and curiosity of a child in Disneyland.

Yet while the Russians oggle and stare, the Afghan shop attendants back away, clearly not wanting to be the ones to serve the "shorvie". Their studied indifference, often verging on open hostility, is almost palpable. One evening in January, I saw a group of four Russians in mufti, who had been dining in one of Kabul's popular restaurants, being roundly rebuffed by the waiters. In flatterer imitation of the Afghan three-kiss farewell, the guests sought to kiss the waiters goodbye. Even before the Russian party was out of the door, the staff were deliberately rubbing their cheeks in a vigorous gesture of cleanliness. Their contemptuous laughter echoed after the departing guests.

For no Russian is welcome in Kabul. And they know it. For them almost every Afghan is in turn suspect. That is why the Russians live in special housing complexes, behind barbed wire and protected by their own security and armour. When they venture out, they prefer to do so in groups seeking the safety of their own number. They travel in army jeeps, with soldiers in attendance, and are rarely out of rifle distance from their escorts.

And yet they still remain vulnerable to attacks by the mujahideen.

Last December a taxiload of mujahideen stormed the tightly guarded Microrayon housing estate near Kabul airport, fired rockets at the buildings and escaped without being captured. A few weeks earlier a senior civilian adviser was kidnapped by his own driver. And practically every day, despite the armoured divisions ringing Kabul (two full Soviet and three skeleton Afghan divisions are believed to be in the capital) they collect contributions and cash from shopkeepers, residents and workers without fear or detection.

Mujahideen "shabnamas" (underground pamphlets distributed by the resistance) circulate freely.

## Venus shot produces the wrong colour

From Michael Binyon, Moscow, March 2

Much to the Russians' ideological disappointment they have discovered that Venus is not red but brown. Colour pictures received from Venera 13, the landing module that touched down on the planet yesterday, show sharp brownish rocks covered with fine dust and sand.

Eight panoramic views taken within the first few minutes of landing, before the 457°C heat got the better of the module's cameras, make it clear that the surface of Venus varies considerably. Venera 13 landed at a main centre of volcanic activity, but previous Soviet probes encountered very different conditions on other parts of the planet.

The module has completed its sampling and analysis of rocks and sand but Soviet scientists have not yet announced what the planet is made of. Under the intense heat and pressure Venera 13 apparently has stopped functioning and further tests will have to wait until its companion spacecraft Venera 14 arrives on Friday.

Western scientists were full of praise yesterday for Venera 13 which has sent data from the searing hot surface of Venus (Our Science Editor writes).

By transmitting pictures and scientific information for more than 127 minutes, the vehicle improved on the earlier Russian achievement in December, 1978. Venera 12 descended by parachute to become the first Russian probe to transmit from the surface but it failed to get pictures back to Earth.

With the ground nearly red hot, Venus is an extremely hostile place for scientific equipment to operate. Hence most of the observations of the planet have been made by craft flying close by or crash landing through the atmosphere.

Those explorations have already led to modifications of theories about the origin of the solar system. But they have also raised some profound questions about the possible fate of Earth. Since Earth and Venus are almost twin planets, scientists are asking if there is any chance of Earth becoming a desolate inferno.

Venus is an inferno because of the so-called "greenhouse" effect — clouds of dense carbon dioxide, forming about 97 per cent of the atmosphere, admit sunlight but trap the heat.

The atmosphere of Earth acts as a mild greenhouse too, and without it temperatures would get barely above freezing in most parts of the globe. However, the greenhouse effect on Earth never got out of hand.

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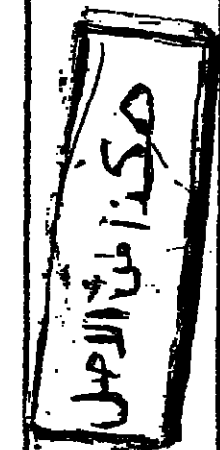
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# Propaganda war rages over Nicaragua tribe

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington, March 2

100,000 Miskito Indians who live in north-east Nicaragua close to the border with Honduras have become the centre of a propaganda war over the spreading conflict in Central America.

The Reagan Administration and anti-communist groups, the Indians, who are being forcibly resettled in other parts of Nicaragua by the Sandinista authorities, emphasize the plight of people who are under the rule of totalitarian left-wing regimes.

On numerous occasions senior Administration officials, when discussing United States policy in Central America, have pointed to the fate of the Miskitos in an attempt to justify American support for the governments of neighbouring Honduras, El Salvador and Costa Rica.

Yesterday, for example, Mrs Jeanne Kirkpatrick, the American ambassador to the United Nations, told a Senate committee that Nicaragua probably stood in first place as a human rights violator because of its campaign of systematic violence against the Miskitos.

The Cuban-backed Nicaraguan Government had turned out to be more repressive than the dictatorship of President Anastasio Somoza it replaced.

The Nicaraguans and left-wing sympathizers accuse the United States of using the Miskito Indians to divert attention from the human rights violations by the

civilian-military junta in El Salvador and other American-backed regimes in the region. They maintain that the suffering of the Miskitos has been deliberately exaggerated for propaganda purposes and that the main reason that they are being resettled is concern about a United States-backed invasion of Nicaragua from Honduras.

Americans who have memory of Vietnam still fresh in their minds, are particularly conscious of the use of propaganda in conflicts such as those being fought between left and

right-wing forces in Central America.

The generally sympathetic tone of American news reports about the activities of left-wing insurgents in El Salvador, and widespread press disapproval of American support for the Duarte Government in San Salvador, has caused senior American officials, including Mr Alexander Haig, the Secretary of State, to accuse journalists of being influenced by left-wing propaganda.

To support this charge, Mr Haig has criticized the American press on two occasions recently for failing to publish a photograph which appeared in *Le Figaro*, the French newspaper, portraying what he described as the most atrocious genocidal actions that are being taken by the Nicaraguan Government against their Indian population.

## Burning bodies photograph false

London: An attempt by Mr Alexander Haig, the American Secretary of State, to demonstrate the alleged left-wing bias of the American press in their coverage of Central America was dashed on March 2 (David Cross writes).

The State Department conceded yesterday that the evidence on which Mr Haig had based his claim of unbalanced reporting was itself false.

Early last month *Le Figaro*, the French newspaper, published in its weekly magazine a two-page spread of graphic colour photographs showing a number of bodies being consumed by flames. The caption on the photograph claimed that the bodies were those of Miskito Indians massacred by the left-wing Sandinista Government in Nicaragua last December.

To the delight of his audience at a conservative political rally in Washington last Saturday, Mr Haig referred to the photographs as "very, very impressive" depictions of genocide by the Nicaraguan authorities. Why had they not received the same attention in the press as the alleged right-wing atrocities in El Salvador, he asked to loud applause.

He did not have to wait long for an answer. Over the weekend, the State Department learnt from *Le Canard Enchaîné*, the French satirical magazine, that the photographs were more than three years old. The bodies were actually those of Sandinista guerrillas who had perished at the hands of the right-wing dictatorship in Nicaragua which they had since overthrown. They had been burned by the Red Cross to prevent disease.

## Arms sales warning by Peking

Peking, March 2. — China, returning to an attack in its dispute with the United States over arms sales to Taiwan, insisted today that it did not fear the consequences if Sino-American relations were harmed.

A commentary by the New China news agency restated China's view that continued arms sales could lead to an unspecified "retrogression" in relations, which it said were now at a critical point.

It is China's hope that such a retrogression will not occur, the unsigned commentary said, "but if such a situation is forced upon China, it virtually can do nothing to help. Again, for China, that isn't something so awful to conceive."

The agency said that China, although poor, was in a better position than any other country to survive. The commentary indicated that China might be flexible in the short term over the arms sales, but it said that retrogression would occur if the Americans insisted on a long-term policy of selling arms to Taiwan.

It said the dispute had developed to a point where China had been forced into a corner without any options.

"The position of China remains to be striving for the best and preparing for the worst," the agency said.

Statements on the dispute have been held in Peking since Washington announced in January that it would continue to supply Taiwan with the F-7 fighter, while denying arms advanced weapons.

China has never spelled out all such sales, although it has grudgingly tolerated them after the United States and China restored relations in 1979.

The commentary gave no hint of any progress in the current talks. It was apparently intended to suggest that the dispute was being settled.

China has never spelled out what action it would take if no settlement is reached by last year. It downgraded relations with the Netherlands after the Dutch Government agreed to the sale of submarines to Taiwan.

# Ex-Tory minister joins attack on tour

CRICKET

Mr Michael Foot, the Leader of the Opposition, and Mr Hector Monro, the former Conservative Minister for Sport, joined forces during Prime Minister's Question Time in the Commons in condemning the tour of South Africa by a party of English cricketers.

Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister, questioned about the tour, said that the Government was determined to uphold the Test and Country Cricket Board in carrying out its proper functions in these matters and will make it clear that as a Government and a country we repudiate entirely the sentiments expressed by some 30 of her friends in that motion.

Mrs Thatcher: We are signatories to the Gleneagles agreement. We reaffirmed it. We tried to uphold its terms. Our powers are limited to persuasion. The Test and Country Cricket Board did everything they could in the case of the recent cricketers who have gone to South Africa to play there but they did not know when the visit was going to take place. In so far as they did know they attempted to persuade people not to go.

We do, upon the Gleneagles agreement. It has to be by persuasion and in the end the

decision is up to each of the persons concerned because they are in a free country. There are no legal restrictions.

Mr Foot: This is not only a question of persuasion, although that enters into it. It is perfectly open to her — it is her duty to the House and the country to condemn the motion because it is so deeply offensive to human rights.

Has she and her Government fully considered the threat to the Commonwealth Games and if the Commonwealth Games are to be held in England, will she consider the Commonwealth Games might be threatened. I am sure she does not wish to see that.

Will she use her authority to try to prevent the Commonwealth Games being maintained and that England plays its proper part in these games?

Mrs Thatcher: We believe in the Gleneagles agreement. We will do everything in our power to uphold it. The Minister of Sport (Mr Neil Macfarlane) has seen the Test and Country Cricket Board.

We do not have the power to prevent our sportsmen and women from visiting South Africa or anywhere else. If we were to do that we would be a free country. The Gleneagles agreement recognises that we can only act by persuasion. We have tried to do just that.

Mr David Steel, Leader of the Liberal Party (Roxburgh, Selkirk

engage in a personal vendetta against them. Does she not think (he went on) that that motion is deeply humiliating to this House? Will she take early steps to say how strongly she disapproves of all the advice expressed in that motion?

Will she make it clear that the Government is determined to carry out the Gleneagles agreement on no sporting links with South Africa? Will she make it clear that as a Government and a country we repudiate entirely the sentiments expressed by some 30 of her friends in that motion?

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Mr David Steel, Leader of the Liberal Party (Roxburgh, Selkirk



Steel: Prime Minister's duty



Monro: Loyalty and trust

and Peebles): In our free country it is also the duty of the head of the Government of this Commonwealth country to make clear her condemnation. (Cheers.)

Mrs Thatcher: The Minister of Sport on my behalf has made the views of the Government perfectly clear. He has seen the Test and Country Cricket Board about this, but in the end our capacity to act is limited to persuasion.

Sir Hector Monro, (Dumfriesshire): Regardless of the circum-

stances, no individual sport will flourish in this country unless there is loyalty and trust between competitors and players and their governing body.

It is a sad day when money is more important than the game. (Cheers.)

Mrs Thatcher: The Test and Country Cricket Board have done their best to uphold the Gleneagles agreement and give advice. It was up to the persons concerned in a free country to act in accordance with that advice.

# Painful process of gas price rises nearly over

ENERGY

The long and painful process of adjusting domestic gas prices would be over by October, Mr Nigel Lawson, Secretary of State for Energy, said during a debate on increases in domestic gas prices.

He said that the price of the adjustment process would be a source of highly competitive fuel for British industry.

The debate was opened by Mr Geoffrey Rees, Opposition spokesman on energy, who said that the Government action had resulted in a 100 per cent increase in gas prices.

Mr Rees moved an Opposition motion regretting the decision of the Government to increase domestic gas prices by 22 per cent in 1982 and demanding that this policy be not implemented.

He said it was the Government, not the Opposition, which had taken the decision to increase gas prices by 22 per cent.

Mr Lawson moved the Government amendment rejecting the Opposition motion and insisting that the Government's decision to increase gas prices by 22 per cent was a necessary and justified one.

The Government's decision to increase gas prices by 22 per cent was a necessary and justified one, Mr Lawson said.

The price of gas to industry, far from being held down in line with domestic gas, rose to the point where it was 150 per cent more than the price to the home, despite the fact that the cost of supplying it in smaller quantities to the home was higher.

The Government's own price commission, set up in 1979, had recommended that prices should go up, reported in the House of Commons.

The Government was using price increases at the BCC as a means of raising taxes.

The effect of the whole of the gas sector of the Gas and Oil Bill was to put up prices.

The Government argued that the domestic consumer had benefited at the expense of the industrial consumer. The imbalance had been corrected by the Government's intervention.

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kind of poll tax on all energy users in Britain. The BCC was a successful industry in anyone's language. The fact that world oil prices were welcome for its effect throughout the economy. As a result of that, the price of domestic gas would fall because there was no normal, a straight link between the two.

It was remarkable that a country with all the coal it needed, and gas and oil, should make such a hash of its energy. Canada where prolific supplies were used for the benefit of the consumer, Britain should do exactly the opposite.

The Opposition believed that relatively cheap gas would encourage its use in the domestic and commercial market. To increase the price of gas would encourage consumers to waste it.

The Government's policy was to put up gas prices, not because the Gas Corporation wanted it, but because the Government wanted it.

The House was today discussing the price of gas. It was a painful process of adjustment in domestic gas prices will be over and a real burden.

The increase in domestic gas prices would be over and a real burden.

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whatsoever it could to help keep industry's energy costs competitive. The freeze on industry's gas contract renewal terms had been of vital importance in that context.

That freeze was coming to an end. An increase of 3 per cent in industrial gas prices was now due as a prelude to further increases later in the year. But MPs would prefer this month's modest rise to be followed by a further period of stability.

He and the Chancellor would be looking closely at that possibility and it was clear that the Government would be crucially conditioned by the question of whether the corporation was able to earn, pre-levy, a modest return from its domestic gas business or whether, as before, industry had to bear the entire burden.

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From October industry had to pay slightly less for gas than the domestic consumer, as its competitors did abroad, and as it should, since the cost of supplying industry was markedly less.

In the short run it had been essential to restore a proper balance between domestic and industrial gas prices. The Government's policy was to put up gas prices, not because the Gas Corporation wanted it, but because the Government wanted it.

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have allowed him to devise it in the first place.

The policy was born of academic unworldliness, mated with producer self-interest. If it did nothing for the consumer, undermined the Government's wider economic strategy, hit at some of the most vital members of the community, and was not even needed by the gas industry.

He strongly blamed himself for having persuaded the vote for the increase a year ago.

A Conservative Government was imposing deliberate price charges on this popular product, thereby increasing the cost of living, with an excess profit tax. It was producer-dominated economics. Nothing would make the current wage round easier than a price standstill in public sector charges.

The Government would be well advised to appreciate the strength of public feeling on this matter at a time of extreme public expenditure, increased rents, rates and telephone bills. Many people were seeing their standard of living fall and there was a real risk of a social problem.

There should be no 10 per cent increase in October, and in 1983 increases should be nil or at the most 3 per cent below the rate of inflation. If the Government wanted to their supporters in the country they would take this action.

Mr David Penhaligon (Truro, L) said that he supported the Opposition motion with conviction. It was right and proper and in the public interest. If the increases were proposed on the basis of promoting a massive conservation programme, some form of help for those obliged to use more expensive fuel, they would have been more acceptable.

Mr Kenneth Lewis (Rutland and Stamford, C) said he had no intention of voting for this unless the minister would compromise. He was sick and tired of the inflationary price rises of the nationalised industries.

Mr John Moore, Under Secretary of State for Energy, said the common side of the business had not, and still did not today, meet the cost of supply. Thus the industrial and commercial user was subsidising the domestic consumer.

Gas today was cheaper in real terms than in 1970. The average domestic user was getting a better deal than the industrial user, who was getting a worse deal.

The Opposition motion was rejected 301 votes to 245. Government amendment was agreed to.

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Gas today was cheaper in real terms







North of the river, the Barbican Centre opens tonight, but Karlheinz Stockhausen takes over the South Bank, with a talk in the Purcell Room and his "Inori" in the Festival Hall. Interview by Paul Griffiths

## Creating the myths of the future

Surprisingly, when Karlheinz Stockhausen conducts the BBC Symphony Orchestra in his *Inori* in the Festival Hall tonight it will be the first time he has appeared with a British orchestra in public. He has, of course, conducted here before: the last occasion was when *Inori* had its two-instrument premiere at the Barbican in 1974, with the BBC Symphony Orchestra. He has also conducted the orchestra in the privacy of the Maida Vale studios, where in 1970 his attempt to lead them in intuitive musical meditation met with some success, less than a sympathetic response.

Stockhausen, however, is prepared to wait for understanding. When I met him recently he was still a high from the production of his latest work, *Laufers Traum* for bass, singer and piano, which he had just completed. He has also conducted the orchestra in the privacy of the Maida Vale studios, where in 1970 his attempt to lead them in intuitive musical meditation met with some success, less than a sympathetic response.

Stockhausen's high regard for his recent output might seem a defensive reaction to the strong body of opinion that in *Licht* he has reached a mystical nadir, the brilliance and freshness of his musical thinking, swamped by vast prophetic pretensions. But in fact his self-esteem is all-inclusive. In answer to a question about the pressures on him in the Fifties when he, Boulez and Nono were rivals in charting new paths for music, he remarked only that he "was really worried that Boulez and Nono didn't compose more differently from work to work." And he went on:

"I think it's deeply in me to try everything once. Because I have had from the very beginning of my life the feeling that this life is really very short, and so I don't want to waste time making variations or other versions of works. For instance, I would love to make a whole evening in the manner of *Refrain*, which is just a 12-minute piece for tuned percussion, but I have no time. I could make another work for several orchestras like *Gruppen* and do it much better, because now I have the technique. After all, why did I let Berio make *Alleluja*? Why didn't I do it myself?"

While we were looking back at these achievements of the Fifties I asked Stockhausen what work or works of that period he now regards as most important. His answer was surprising: not the exhilarating *Gruppen* for three separated orchestras, nor one of the works in which he opened up the electronic universe, but instead a piano piece.

"Maybe *Klavierstück VI*, because I rewrote it four times. Sometimes I sat for a week looking for another permutation I could accept, because I had made the rules so incredibly narrow. And when you study the sketches of the piano pieces, or of *Gruppen*, you see what a fantastic amount of work was involved. You wouldn't believe that a musician

could make his life so hard. But I think I had to put myself through that kind of discipline so that I could write more easily, nowadays it flows much more."

Indeed, from the way Stockhausen speaks it would seem that he sees his earlier works, if not the whole of world music up to 1975, as a testing ground for the project on which he is now embarked. Late Beethoven he regards as really quite simple, because "you foresee everything." Bach gave a measure of praise for his glimpse of a Stockhausen-like density of polyphony. Other music is valued for the ideas it has offered him, not least Japanese music, an influence on him since the mid-Sixties and clearly to be felt behind *Der Jahreslauf*, which was released on record at the beginning of the year and was the first scene of *Licht* to be composed.

It was not, however, planned as such. The idea for the week of music dramas came while Stockhausen was in Japan for the first performance of *Der Jahreslauf*, and came quite suddenly.

"There was one afternoon when there was a ceremony going on in a temple. I asked a man what was happening, and he said it was a six-week session. And I sat for three or four hours in the garden, just listening, and it became clear to me that all cultures have the same musical structures, as far as the notes and intervals are concerned. The only differences are the results of different dialects. For instance, Japanese chant is exactly the same as Gregorian, but with glissandos and strange attacks." (Stockhausen demonstrated his point by singing a plainsong *Pater noster* in normal fashion and then with the quirks and decorations of a Buddhist monk.)

"And so I thought I would write a structure, and then with that

structure write a work in as many musical dialects as I could. And that is *Licht*. I wrote down the three melodies for Eva, Michael and Lucifer, and then, on the back of an envelope."

In fact this idea of using a melody as the basis of a diverse musical world is not particularly new in Stockhausen's work: it is the essential principle of *Inori* and also of *Mantra* for two pianos and electronics, which was written in 1970 and was the first of his new melodic pieces. It even goes back to a work he wrote in 1951, *Formel* for small orchestra, suppressed until after *Mantra*.

"I showed it to a friend, and he said: 'You're crazy, you can't do that after *Kreuzspiel*'. And I had to agree. But I wanted something else apart from these blips and blobs. I wanted something else. You can even see it in *Kreuzspiel* and my other works from the early Fifties, like *Spit für orchestra* and *Schlagzeug*, which are each of them based on a single melody. And the same is true of *Momente*: it's all based on a melody. Which is why in *Momente* you begin to notice when they make mistakes, which you can't do in *Gruppen*."

*Momente*, which was begun in 1961 but not finished until a decade later, was the work Stockhausen brought with him when he last appeared in the Festival Hall, nine years ago. In its final form the piece is a grand concert spectacle for solo soprano, choir and instrumentalists, a joyous experience but surely not as coherently, even obsessively, melodic as *Mantra* and the works that have followed. Stockhausen agrees.

"The difference is that since *Mantra* the melodies have become more compact, because I wanted to make figures that stick in the mind. And that can only happen when you are able to sing them. So they have

to seem simple, yet at the same time they are so complicated. How is it that these sound different from Schoenberg melody, or a Webern melody, or a Boulez melody?"

Stockhausen preferred to leave this question in the air, as part of the mystery of his melodies, for though he is happy to analyze them — to show how he consciously works out the intervals, the rhythmic figures, the initial and final notes, the degree of internal repetition, and so on — at the same time he would have them regarded as complete inspirations. It is the same with *Licht* as a whole. The musical structures are elaborately artificial and, as Stockhausen says, work on a great many levels, yet he is in no doubt that the personages of *Licht* are real beings with whom he is in communication. I had to ask him twice about this to make sure.

"Absolutely. Michael is my boss: he is the director of the local universe. True. I have known him since I was a child. Lucifer was in charge of our universe: he was one of the 700,000 creator-sons of God who were allowed to create a universe at will, doing anything they wanted. But then he caused a rebellion because he was fed up with the idea of creating men between animals and angels, and so Michael had to take over. One emanation of Michael was Christ, who tried to formulate the precise message of how individuals can boggle at the centre of the universe."

And Stockhausen insists that the singers, dancers and instrumentalists who take the roles of Eva, Michael and Lucifer in *Licht* must also become "emanations" of the beings: "They must be obsessed by the spirit. Otherwise they shouldn't go on stage."

I asked Stockhausen about the sources of his mythology. "It somehow is the result," he said, "of 30 years of reading here and there — I read very little — and of things experienced in dreams." But he was not to be so forthrightly claiming only that he has no imagination and implying that the cosmic drama of *Licht* is a vision beyond his conscious control. In any event, his main concern is with the music.

"Very often the music is composed first and then I work out what the best words to fit what I have written. The pitches, rhythm, durations, tempi, dynamics and so on are the main structure, and then the text is subsidiary and has two aspects, of which the more important is the timbre of the words, and the other is that it tells you what is going on, and in such a way that you can immediately understand it."

It is not surprising, therefore, that Stockhausen has not written any text in advance for the parts of *Licht* yet to be composed but has planned only "the proportions of the scenes and the sub-scenes". Nor is he daunted, at the age of 53, by so much work lying ahead. He reckons that the completion of *Licht* will take another 20 years, and that he has perhaps a further 30 in front of him after that. He also has projects to fill them.

"*Sirius*, which I wrote in 1974-77, is the year, with the four seasons and the twelve months and then *Licht* is the work. After the week I come to the day. And after the day I come to the hour. And then the minute. And then the second." A whole work lasting just a second? "Yes, but don't ask me with how many layers."

Finally I asked Stockhausen about the connection which would seem to exist between his current hermeticism and the work of an earlier German composer. He was dismissive. "Wagner? That was an attempt to relive the old German myths. My myths lie in the future."



Stockhausen, with mimes and the BBC Symphony Orchestra, rehearsing "Inori" at Maida Vale studios this week

### Concerts

## Rich and dashing sonority

### Oslo PO/Jansons

#### Festival Hall

Grieg was one of the first conductors of the Oslo Philharmonic Orchestra, but it was not permanently established until after the First World War, and is still making its way towards full symphonic strength. Under its present chief conductor, Marius Jansons, the orchestra is currently touring the United Kingdom, on Monday it paid its first visit to London, and was sufficiently numerous, and brave, to include Berlioz's *Fantastic Symphony*, a famous test of orchestral virtuosity.

The orchestra has a rich and dashing full sonority, founded on a firm, reliable double bass section, bold, shining brass, elegant woodwind with an outstanding principal oboe whose every solo gave pleasure, and fiery

violins. The Berlioz stretched them all to the utmost, as expected.

Almost inevitably, some passages did not come off ideally, the tolling of the victim's head on the floor in the execution scene, the slow, pious chords which end the first movement, the most hectic polyphonic textures, towards the end of the ball, for example. I would guess that the excitement of the occasion was largely responsible, coupled with the enthusiasm of Mr Jansons' reading — never a half-hearted moment.

Many other notorious passages, on the other hand, were surmounted neatly and confidently, in a work that permits no optimistic approximation; every strand of the music must tell as exactly as in a symphony by Mozart. Mr Jansons had evidently rehearsed the score in complete detail, as the

Witches' Sabbath, with all its bizarre cackles and capers, made clear.

In Sibelius's Violin Concerto, they brought forward their contrabassist Arve Tellefsen as soloist, an interpreter of athletic, outgoing temperament, with a vivid sense of rhythm and a warm cantabile manner, a natural musician in Brahms's D minor Violin Sonata, a performance carefully moulded with an accent on growth, from an almost perfunctory opening to the strangely grandiloquent deliberations of the presto agitato finale. To credit this interpretation of rare stature Mr Belkin played Beethoven's Sonata Op 30 No 3 and Prokofiev's Sonata Op 94. In both works, he showed meticulous attention to details, and his phenomenal technique was never allowed to degenerate into production of tedious satin sheen beloved of many another virtuoso. The only real bluish of the evening was Miss Zaritskaya's timidity, soon eschewed, in the Beethoven.

Another gifted artist unafraid of admitting a battle with his instrument was the Australian pianist Sophie McCallum. Boldly beginning with a refined yet well-coloured reading of Ravel's *Valses nobles* or *Sentimentales*, she went on to tackle Beethoven's *Appassionata* Sonata headlong, emphasizing its quirkiness as well as its sheer driving power with admirable clarity, weight and thoughtfulness. Less of a test of her musicianship, if not of her dexterity and poetical response, were Alkan's *Chants*, Book V, apparently a first London performance. Saint-Saens's *Toccata*, Op 111 No 6, concluded an impressive debut, with Miss McCallum's playing full colour and brilliant light.

The American pianist Michael May arrived at the Wigmore Hall late and breathless after a series of mishaps with taxis, but managed to tackle his show

### London debuts

## Accent on growth

The Russian violinist Boris Belkin, who like his wife Irina Zaritskaya now lives in Israel, is already well known enough to attract a large audience to the Queen Elizabeth Hall for his debut recital there. His challenging programme culminated in Brahms's D minor Violin Sonata, a performance carefully moulded with an accent on growth, from an almost perfunctory opening to the strangely grandiloquent deliberations of the presto agitato finale. To credit this interpretation of rare stature Mr Belkin played Beethoven's Sonata Op 30 No 3 and Prokofiev's Sonata Op 94. In both works, he showed meticulous attention to details, and his phenomenal technique was never allowed to degenerate into production of tedious satin sheen beloved of many another virtuoso. The only real bluish of the evening was Miss Zaritskaya's timidity, soon eschewed, in the Beethoven.

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### William Mann

subtlety of expression one could have asked for. So lovingly were the melodic lines drawn that even conventional cadential formulas were a source of pleasure. The tune of "Ridente la Calma", though the work of the Czech composer Myšliveček rather than (as billed) Mozart, is no less deeply felt, even than "Abendempfindung". Miss Popp demonstrated as much with her rapt accounts of both.

A group of four more familiar Schubert songs closed the recital. The delicate "Nachtviolen" and "Dass sie hier gewesen" were given beautifully sustained performances, that of the latter relishing the song's adventurous and telling harmonic detail. Lucia Popp had won over the audience long before the end; "An Silvia" merely sealed the pact.

Barry Millington

### Popp/Parsons

#### St John's/Radio 3

Italian songs by Schubert and French by Mozart: the inclusion of these lesser-known examples of the songwriter's art was more than justified by Lucia Popp in her St John's recital on Monday. The group of four Italian songs by Schubert, dating from 1828, is said to lack the sensuality of response to the text that is found in Schubert's settings

of his native German poetry. Certainly these songs are not to be compared with the finest of the *Lieder*, but they have a good deal to offer the alert interpreter. Lucia Popp found much to linger over, much to sigh over, and one was forced to wonder whether earlier commentators might have revised their opinion of these Italian songs if they had had the benefit of Miss Popp's exquisite rendering. Similarly she brought to Mozart's two French songs, by no means gems of musico-poetic synthesis, all the

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سكس في الامم



Laurence Olivier stressing his scope and durability, with Alastair Bates, and David Bowie doing a thankless task as well as possible

## Television: channels in competition Mortimer travels better

Thames Television's production of John Mortimer's *A Voyage Round My Father* had a 25-minute start over BBC1's *Basil* last night and possibly only those observing strict, medieval, Lenten penitence, they had David Bowie as a beach-bogger, perhaps for the young or hopelessly non-dialectical. In fact the play was presented as David Bowie in *Basil*, and *Radio Times* informed us that it was "rarely performed perhaps because magnetic actors are so rare". A needless slur on the acting profession at large and, of course, untrue.

Mr Bowie did not pull me entirely into his magnetic field but, in the circumstances, he did as good a job as possible of playing this amoral, anti-social poet. He proceeded with the odd song through depravity to murder and death, making himself, as required, singularly unattractive. Alan Clarke, the director, who also adapted the play for television with the translator John Willett, had fun with his split screens, but *Basil*, Brecht's first play, written when he was 20 and set in

Germany in the 10 years before the First World War, has not travelled well or meaningfully. John Mortimer's play travels extremely well, a delightful, movingly affectionate circumnavigation of an extraordinary parent with marvellous language, that would be a joy even without such an excellent production. This one was based on the 1970 stage version.

Mortimer's senior was a barister who went blind whose family bent to his inclination to ignore that fact, and who continued to practise his profession, "sending words into the dark like soldiers", for 20 years. He had the apparently uncomplaining assistance of his wife, round whom a further voyage might well be made for she was obviously a saint — a secular one, if Mr Mortimer would prefer that.

Elizabeth Sellars played her here. It was a necessary subdued performance: her husband's construction in kindness, mischief and bravery, was being projected by Laurence Olivier. It provided a fortuitous occasion for him to remind us of the scope and durability of his talent.

Alan Bates, as the son, seemed a little mature for the role but, this slight demur, gave a sensitive, good-humoured performance which was never overshadowed. Jane Asher, too, as the daughter-in-law, not at first prepared to enter the conspiracy but gradually enticed into the eccentric circle, was obdurately and attractively noticeable. Michael Aldridge contributed

a witty bonus in the form of a headmaster making puberty even more incomprehensible than it might be for his charges; and Alvin Rakoff had the combined pleasure of directing and producing this most eloquent memorial.

Everyman, dislodged from its Sunday night place by *Omniculus*, reflected last night on Uselessly Powers, not the programmers of BBC 1 but those that an increasing number of Christians, spread across the churches, feel they can communicate with if they let themselves go. Such believers are within the charismatic movement which seeks to recapture the spiritual intimacy which early Christians felt they could enjoy with the persons of the Trinity — an intimacy they believe has been distanced by the march of science and man's overweening idea of his sophistication.

The mild trances into which they pass they call "falling into the spirit", powerful but not hysterical, we were assured by Professor Ian Lewis, an anthropologist. It could be that they are caused by natural rather than super-natural influences and a department of comparative physiology in Bader's researching this possibility. Professor Lewis noted, however, that even if the cause were natural it would not explain away man's urge to reach beyond his temporal enclave. William Nicholson's production made a good start to the new series.

Dennis Hackett

### Theatre

## Rattigan's fine workmanship

### In Praise of Love

#### King's Head

It was from this address that the Rattigan revival began with Stewart Trotter's 1976 production of *The Browning Version* (and it is the same director who now returns to salvage Rattigan's last play). In *Praise of Love* first arrived in London in 1973 as the more substantial piece in a double bill also including a burlesque of *Twelfth Night* which was supposedly antagonized audiences at the Duchess. At all events, it was dropped for the 1974 New York production which consisted of an expanded version of the title piece, now receiving its London premiere at the King's Head.

I missed the West End production, but during its run Rattigan wrote to me saying that he intended to make a break from the past tense into modern life. "As a result of the ensemble of the understudies," he wrote, "I still remember no criticism saying 'The poor old thing shouldn't try to write about now'. They bashed me for old reasons... The serious play failed for structural reasons" (structural reasons? from me). Why didn't they say 'How joyful it is that Sir T. has at last

liberated himself from his structural bondage? But, of course, I haven't. It's more Rattigan's work than *The Browning Version*."

So, indeed, it is. The play is a study of emotional reticence (defined by its main character as *le vice anglais*) centering on the case of an impending death. Lydia is dying of a rare form of leukemia. She knows. Her husband Sebastian knows. But they jointly conceal their knowledge from each other, and from their son Joey. Their only relief from this masquerade is in spilling the beans to their old friend Mark, who plays the confidante to each of them in two symmetrically placed scenes.

The main situation was prompted by the marriage of Rex Harrison and Kay Kendall. But it is the relationships between the three men that give the piece its intensely personal character. All seemed to have been quarried from different sides of Rattigan's mind, the best-selling author; Sebastian, the disappointed artist turned armchair Marxist; Joey, the arrogantly uncompromised boy who sees his father as a thinly disguised High Tory.

These three are drawn from close first-hand experience. Lydia, however, with her background as an Estonian victim of the Nazis, picked up by Sebastian in a Berlin brothel, is an imagined emblem of the modern world. Rattigan does not sentimentalize her. Far from it. Her actions are entirely practical: to make arrangements for her helpless husband when she is dead; to protect her son from his father's unending self-absorption. Isobel Dean plays her with maximum attention to each passing crisis, and with a stiffly Estonian upper lip.

Sebastian, forever preoccupied with his next book review, is even more cushioned against feeling. William Franklyn indicates the supposed depths of his unspoken love by arriving at her side in a flash when she collapses in the first act. But, when it comes to his actual acknowledgment of love, you want to look the other way. Rattigan has done his work too well. He has created an uncaring egoist, who would forget about his son's television play and treat his wife as an unpaid housekeeper. When the moment comes for him to disclose this as mere pretence, the mask has grown into his face.

It is, however, a fine piece of workmanship; played with wit and the fire of old wounds by a company also including Manning Redwood and Richard Gibson.

Irving Wardle

### Jazz

#### Clifford Jordan

#### Ronnie Scott's

Probably not enough attention is paid by jazz scholars to the influence of teachers. Jazz and popular music cannot, in any real sense, be taught; but how can one explain the emergence, in Chicago during the 1950s, of a group of tenor saxophonists so gifted as Johnny Griffin, Von Freeman, John Gilmore and Clifford Jordan without reference to the legendary Captain Walter Dyett, a high school music teacher who left the mark of his encouragement on a generation? Those saxophonists have no common style, but share an approach which blends extreme technical facility with a well-developed inquisitiveness. Jordan, currently in residence on Frith Street, is typical: his tone lighter and more sculptured than it

seems on his recordings, he is a supremely elegant player who uses the bebop vocabulary with great economy.

His British rhythm section is not inspirational, but neither does it get in the way of his lucid phrases and his almost transparent sound. The drummer, Tony Levin, was particularly intelligent during "Cherokee".

Over at the 100 Club, several groups participated in a well-attended benefit for the British alto saxophonist Mike Osborne, who is in hospital. Mike Westbrook, one of Osborne's former employers, brought along his 15-piece orchestra to perform extracts from *The Cortège*, most striking were Brian Godding's effects-laden guitar work in "July 1979" and George Born's cello solo, an essay in black comedy over slowly warping modes and stop-time figures.

Richard Williams

### So HOT GOSSIP

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Donald Woods, an outspoken opponent of apartheid, gives a view on the controversial cricket tour

## Don't just boycott: ban them by law

The South African government regards sport as so crucial to the morale of the country's whites that it is increasingly large amounts of government and semi-government money are being made available to lure international sports stars. South African corporations which do the same are approved for their patriotism.

It was therefore inevitable that English cricketers would receive an offer too large for many to refuse, especially those in the twilight of their careers or clearly not in the highest international class.

In this respect Graham Gooch is the only cricketer among the 12 now in South Africa whose loss to England's Test side is significant in purely cricketing terms. But the issue, alas, is not solely one of cricket. Important moral and political considerations are also involved.

One is the question of whether a citizen of a democratic country should have the right to play sport wherever and against whomever he chooses, and of course the answer should be yes. By the same token, sportsmen of other countries have the right to refuse to play against him if they find his choice of venue and opponents offen-

sive to them. These rights are appropriate to all citizens of countries with normal political relationships.

But when such relationships are abnormal, other considerations come into play. To pose an extreme case, many Englishmen now vociferously defending the right of Boycott and his colleagues to play in South Africa would be the first to deny an equivalent right to an English sportsman who wished, say, at the height of the blitz on London during the Second World War, to play sport in Nazi Germany on the grounds that sport should be above politics.

It is a question of degree. The principle is the same. The most innocent activities can take on political significance according to circumstance. An East German who swims to freedom across a frontier river would hardly agree that swimming is always a non-political activity.

What has to be decided by the British people is the extent to which they regard themselves as being at war against apartheid, and to decide, depending on what degree of warfare seems appropriate, what measures to impose domestically in line with that decision.

These are not always matters of orthodox policy on civil rights, and usually the most crucial determinant is sensitivity. All Americans would insist on their democratic right to invite foreigners to the USA, but no Chicago mayor at this time would risk offending Polish-Americans by being host to General Jaruzelski.

Nor would a New York mayor allow a Palestinian basketball team into a Bronx stadium soon after a PLO attack on a kibbutz. Nor would a Boston mayor welcome Princess Margaret during a Maze prison hunger strike. In each case the mayor's hospitality would be within his democratic rights, but sensitivity sometimes over-rides such rights, and the sensitivity required in all three cases cited above is related to the large numbers of Polish-Americans in Chicago; Jewish-Americans in New York and Irish-Americans in Boston.

But where apartheid is concerned there is a much larger ethnic group requiring even more sensitivity. The reason why most of humanity is sensitive about apartheid is that most of humanity is black.

Two-thirds of the human race, with a deeply personal sense of affront over apart-



"An offer too large for many to refuse": Top row: Boycott, Amis, Embury, Hendrick; centre: Larkins, Willey, Knott, Underwood; bottom row: Old, Gooch, Lever.

heid, cannot easily stomach the sight of Englishmen playing cricket in South Africa as if South Africa had the kind of amiable society where the batting and bowling of a ball seemed a logical extension of other national amiable-

Thus what seems to many white Britons to be the most harmless of activities, the simple playing of cricket, is an outrage to the black man everywhere — a dancing on the grave of apartheid's victims.

To experience this sense of outrage fully, you have

to have a black skin, and know what it feels like to have your very skin colour equated with statutory crime punishable through a system of 317 racial laws covering every aspect of life from cradle to grave.

And if you have a white skin, as I have, you can only approach such an understanding as a cricket addict, which I am, if you cannot forget, as I cannot, three good friends who died violently because they were black men who wouldn't knuckle under to apartheid.

Steve Biko, Mapetla Mohapi and Griffiths

Mxenge one beaten to death, one strangled to death — were three of the saddest, most decent people I have had the privilege to know. Though repeatedly imprisoned without trial and hounded by the state security police, they were neither bitterly destructive nor anti-white in their views, yet all three had a clear understanding of how the South African government intended to use the innocence of sport as a cloak of respectability over a society guilty of some of the worst excesses of tyranny in history.

It is only by close knowledge of South Africa that the direct propaganda relevance can be perceived between the shocking infant mortality statistics among blacks, the serious malnutrition in South Africa's rural areas and many other related results of the apartheid laws on the one hand, and the innocent-seeming picture of well-fed spectators applauding good cricket at a fine stadium, or the other.

Something decisive has to be done to implement the Gleneagles agreement, under which countries severed all sporting links with South Africa. The only answer is to implement it through domestic legislation binding on all citizens — an appropriate response to those who dragged politics into sport in the first place and seek now to use it as an instrument of deceitful statecraft.

The author is the former editor of the East London Daily Dispatch. He fled to Britain in 1977 after being put under house arrest.

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Henry Fairlie

## The hired guns draw a bead on Reagan's budget

Washington  
The number of lobbyists practising in Washington has doubled from 8,000 to 16,000 in the past eight years. They thus outnumber the members of Congress whom they lobby by nearly 30 to one. They can no longer be regarded as a growth on the body politic; they are part of it. Congress would scarcely know how to do its work without their knowledge. President Reagan may sorely miss their co-operation this year.

To understand why, it is necessary to explain what they do and why their numbers have grown so rapidly. The primitive lobbying of a century ago, as one contemporary journalist put it, operated by manipulating the "levers of lust". The influence of members of Congress might be won by satisfying their tastes for "choice viands and fine wines" and for a variety of ephemeral but confidential liaisons.

Most members of Congress are now able, if such are their tastes, to find their own way to these recreations. But lobbying today has for the most part become a much grimmer business.

For one thing, Congress has changed. The number of committees and sub-committees which now have the right to pass legislation on a Bill has proliferated. More and more it is not the members of Congress but their staffs who are worth cultivating. The rules of both Houses have been altered, and their lack of discipline has diffused influence. Legislation itself has become much more complicated.

The American Petroleum Institute, with a staff of 600, watches over the interests of something like 350 oil companies. Inside its own staffs an elaborate hierarchy of lobbyists, and beyond that are informal circles of oil lobbyists from individual companies.

There is barely an industry or interest or even cause in the country which is not now represented either by its own lobbyists or what are known as the hired guns. From the American College of Gynaecologists and Obstetricians to the Casket Coffin Manufacturers Association, they cover the whole range of human existence, as well as industry, from the cradle to the grave and beyond. There are religious lobbyists for God.

Many of the big Washington law firms make their largest fees as lobbyists. Patton, Boggs and Blow is headed by one of the most renowned of the hired guns, Tommy Boggs, son of Earl Boggs, who was once the Democratic leader of the House of Representatives. The fees paid to the hired guns can range from \$165 (about £92) an hour to \$500,000 or more for handling a particular legislative proposal for a client.

But all this activity is still fairly conventional. About four years ago, however, a new development was noticed. It is known here as indirect or grassroots lobbying. Its purpose is to bring pressure to bear on members of Congress by mobilizing their constituents or the general public to telephone them, send telegrams or write letters in support of or in opposition to a legislative proposal which is under consideration.

As long ago as 1978 this grassroots lobbying was called "the only lobbying that counts" by the president of the United States Chamber of Commerce — and no organization lobbies more successfully for such a wide variety of interests. If one

remembers that there are some 40,000 trade associations in America, the political power they can muster is clearly a new phenomenon.

The chairman of a House sub-committee which investigated this kind of lobbying four years ago said: "These people are in the process of gaining control of the apparatus of government. The crucial point is that successful grassroots lobbying on a large enough scale depends on the compilation of computerized lists of constituents who are known to be favourable to which can then be circulated to other like-minded organizations."

These computerized lists contributed more than is often realized to the success of Mr Reagan's primary and election campaigns in 1980. A vast network of political action committees — a form of political expenditure in which corporations and other interest groups are allowed to indulge — brought their lists together over the previous four years. Republican or Democratic, could compete with them.

Mr Reagan used them as President to secure the passage of his budget last year. Members of Congress who were wavering were deluged by floods of calls, telegrams and letters from constituents who sprang into unusual political activity.

One lobbyist has pointed out that the lists enable favourable constituents to be rapidly mobilized in individual districts to influence every member of a sub-committee which is considering a single proposal. This was the power mobilized for Mr Reagan last year.

But here is the rub: for Mr Reagan's budget proposals this year are not popular with business. An official of the United States Chamber of Commerce has said that its members will be "more selective" in giving the President their support, a spokesman of the National Federation of Independent Businesses agrees that there is "no business community consensus in support of the President's programme this year."

Every indication is that the business and financial communities will now be more interested in protecting their own interests than in securing the passage of the President's budget as a whole. Moreover they are aware that the President is less popular in the country and therefore has less influence with Congress. So they in turn are less willing to risk their own interests to save his budget.

After the votes last year, the Speaker of the House, Thomas P. O'Neill, pointed to "Philip Morris, Paine Webber, Monsanto Chemical, Exxon, McDonnell Douglas, who were so kind as to allow the use of their staff to the President's law firm and States in flooding the switchboards of America". Without their support in such high-powered lobbying, there is less chance than ever of the budget being carried this year.

Meanwhile the more conventional lobbyists in Washington are now organizing the law firm and office suites to fight those sections of the budget which threaten their clients' interests. Even if the Republican Party were still united on the budget, even if the Democratic Party had not re-elected its spirit, it is difficult to see how Mr Reagan's proposals can survive the lobbyists.

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## Reaching for the cultural concrete-mixer

by Roderick Gradidge

Tonight the Queen opens the Barbican Centre, the City of London's long-awaited arts and conference complex. Roderick Gradidge assesses the building, which has taken 20 years to complete.

It could not be more appropriate that the first exhibition in the new Barbican Art gallery should be entitled "Aftermath 1945-54", for the whole Barbican Arts complex is the aftermath of that singularly depressing period in English architecture, 1945-54. It was not long after 1954 that the first designs for the Barbican were made.

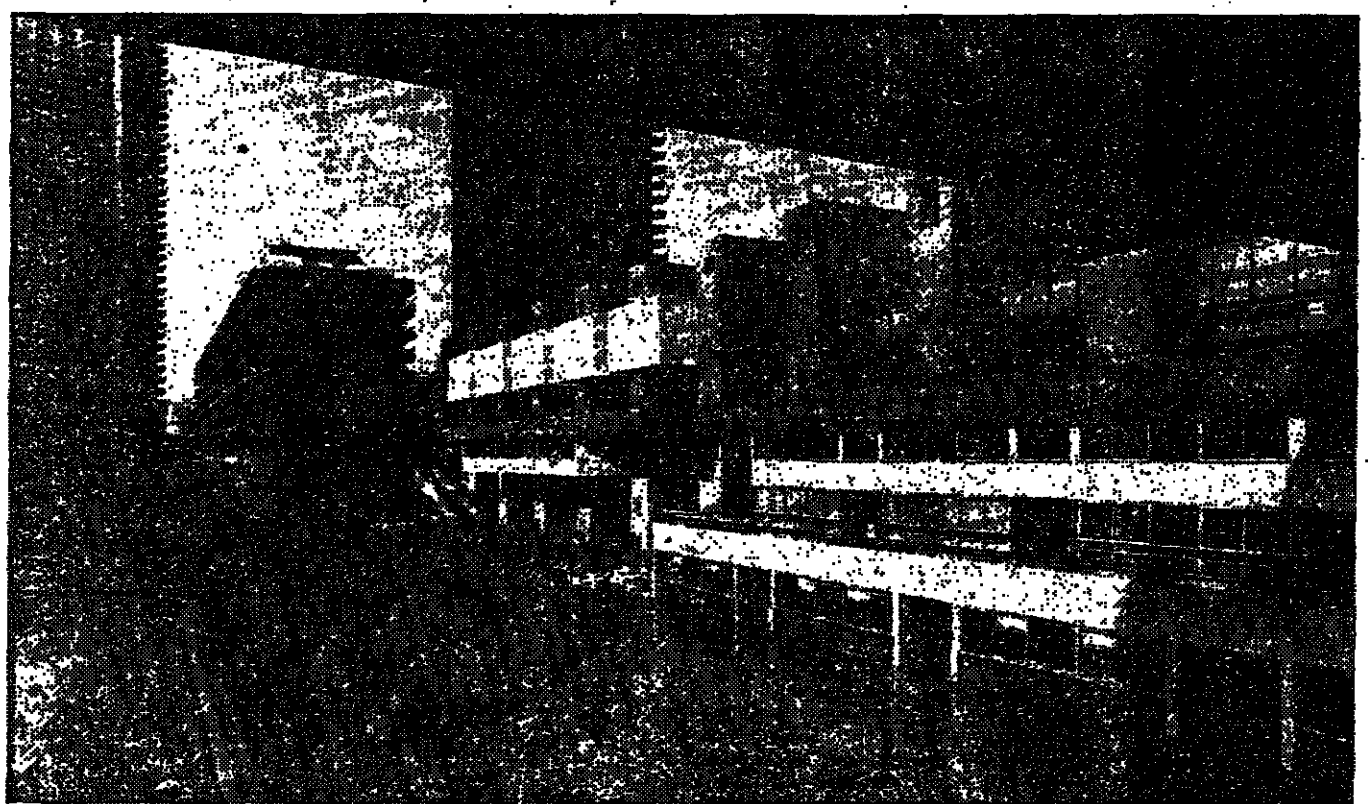
It was a period which, just for a short time, seemed hopeful as the young men just back from the war with their "forward-looking" ideas started to build.

Chamberlain, Powell and Bonn are just such architects, and their Barbican is the last of a depressingly long series of palaces of culture built in London which are entirely dedicated to the concept of brutal ideals of Le Corbusier and his brutalist followers.

Here, under one roof, or, rather, under a series of roofs and under ground, is an arts complex which includes a concert hall, two theatres, a cinema, a public library, a conference centre, restaurants, numberless bars, car parks for hundreds of cars and terraces and fountains in the heart of the City.

It is quite a place. The planning is masterly and it looks as if it is going to work well on the simple functional level. But how pompous it is, how it lacks that lightness and delight that used to be the hallmark of design for places of entertainment.

It is particularly absurd that people seeking culture in London — a city well known for its grey, drizzling fog — should be expected to wander through dripping concrete chasms or over windswept walkways to go to a concert or play or visit an art gallery. No doubt it is designed to



The Barbican Centre: a mixture of elements — and 20 years out of date.

appeal to the Englishman's puritanism when he is involved with the arts. Architects seem to cry: "When I hear the word culture I reach for my concrete mixer" — a rather more expensive but considerably more effective method for destroying the cultural pseud than Goering's naive use of a pistol.

Oddly enough the Victorians, many of whom really did disapprove of people enjoying themselves, displayed in their smallest music halls or back street pubs more understanding of how to design for enjoyment and relaxation than do any of the overpraised architects who force their uncompromising art on a now disenchanted public.

The fact that the Barbican was very largely designed 20

years ago is both fortunate and unfortunate for the architects: unfortunate because it is designed in an outdated and now largely disapproved style; the administrator, Henry Wrong — fresh from the considerably more architecturally sophisticated delights of New York's Lincoln Centre — put his foot down and insisted that we have something more attractive at the Barbican than the appallingly barren wastes of the South Bank.

And so in the Barbican, painted board panels are stuck onto the bush-hammered concrete, which can be clearly seen behind. Bush hammering is an incredibly expensive technique and this can only have been a last minute decision caused by desperation at the sight of the acres of grey concrete.

What the brightly painted boards are going to look like after a few years of ordinary use is another matter. As a final and even more desperate fling, interior decorators such as David Hicks have been brought in to tart up such places as the restaurants. His garish late-1960s *House and Garden* colours add a further divisive and equally dated note.

All in all, stylistically, the buildings are very typical of English architecture — an attempt to combine a series of totally diverse elements in a style 20 years out of date.

Nothing has changed in the City since Sir Christopher Wren tried to design St Paul's and found that the conservatism and indecision of the burgesses meant that he designed one of the most muddled masterpieces in the history of architecture.

But this has always been where English architecture is at its best. So perhaps we might expect something very English and very good at the Barbican — and indeed there are occasions when the designers have just about pulled it off.

Natural woods are used effectively throughout the building and the colours are good. In the concert hall, the walls are faced with pine, which behind the stage is used decoratively as an acoustic device.

And you can sit in some comfort, which cannot be said of any of the halls on the South Bank.

The sound seems fine, but there is the usual jumble of lights, soundgloves, extrac-

tors and odd service pipes that the architect forgot about.

The same can be said of the main theatre. Once one has got over the initial shock of finding oneself herded into rows in exactly the same manner as cows are herded into a milking shed, the theatre is comfortable enough, though the much-lauded absence of aisles means that theatre-going is no longer a social event, since it is impossible to talk to anyone else in the theatre; popping along for a chat at the interval is a thing of the past.

If you want to talk there are foyers to go to. And there are certainly foyers. Most of the place seems to be made up of passages and staircases, some low, some gloomy, but others really rather stunning, with staircases angling across great spaces and enormous slabs of colour, each area — theatre, library etc. — being colour coded.

The colours, of course, are strictly functional, like everything else. The only pattern in the whole place are some Hicks carpets in the restaurants. There is no sculpture on the building, only bits and pieces dotted about in a surrealist manner, and there is only one mural, a clever one by Gillian Wise Giobottari, using mirrors on a staircase.

Obviously the place is going to work and work well, which is more than can be said for the National Theatre, but the trouble is, as is the trouble in so much modern architecture, that it ignores one of the most important of all functions in a place of entertainment — the simple enjoyment of ordinary people.

The author is an award-winning architect, has written several books on *Edwardian* architecture and was an organizer of the recent *Lutyens* exhibition at the Hayward Gallery.

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## A late opening for the V & A?

A strong likelihood that the Victoria and Albert Museum's new drawings, print and photograph gallery will not open as planned this December is causing mounting gloom among museum staff.

The V & A needs to recruit some 40 warders to staff the Cole building, an annex including exhibition areas, a restaurant and study room, named after Sir Henry Cole, first director of the museum.

For nearly a year now it has been waiting for the Department of Education and Science go-ahead, but now even if that is forthcoming it is likely to come too late to allow the annex to open this year.

Yesterday a V & A press officer said that the museum saw "no reason at all why it should not open in December" as planned. An Office of Arts and Libraries spokesman at the DES confirmed that discussions about the staffing of the new building were continuing and that no decision had yet been made. He added: "We have responsibility of the overall level of staffing and the V & A cannot be exempt from the national cuts in civil service manpower."

## Star guest

For one deliciously indulgent evening London had another

three-star restaurant on Monday (in addition to Le Gavroche). Chef Fredy van de Casserie of the Villa Lorraine in Brussels, the first restaurant outside France to win three stars from Michelin, was guest cook for a five-course dinner in the Dorchester's Terrace restaurant.

His creations were the stuff that fortified Geoffrey Rippon, Lord Soames, Edward Heath and Roy Jenkins in their European determination, and which, allegedly, even Eurocrats can nowadays scarcely afford. There were some 90 diners, at £50 a head, for dishes which included *foie gras* brought to perfection, surprisingly, by being kept eight days in the fridge, and roast langoustine with sea urchin butter.

The Villa's specialties of duck with figs and oysters in champagne, it was feared, might prove too rich for Londoners' taste.

The evening was the first in an occasional series of international chef appearances planned by Chef Anton Mosimann of the Dorchester for his closest technical colleagues. Next, Joseph Renggli from the Four Seasons in New York on April 22.

## Wrong note?

There is a degree of dudgeon about the fact that Yo Yo Ma is to play the Elgar cello concerto at the Barbican's opening concert tonight. Patriotic critics are

indignant at the implication that there is no native cellist worthy of the task.

The obvious exponent of English music for the instrument is Julian Lloyd Webber, brother of

## THE TIMES DIARY

You know what these gremlins get up to in the printing business, so congratulations to Robert Maxwell's British Printing & Communication Corporation for its perfectionist attitude. The new

name and symbol are launched today, and just in time I have received from Maxwell House a correction to the company's press release on the subject. "The 'and' should be shown as an ampersand," it says. Fortunately the company will be known as BPCP for short, so it is a mistake I hope not to fall into too often myself.

Andrew Robert Cohen, whose recording of Dvorak's concerto is second in *The Times* list of classical bestsellers, has also recorded the Elgar very successfully. Colin Carr or Moray Welsh would surely have merited consideration, and other British-based cellists who might well have fitted the bill are Steven Isserlis, Rohan de Saram, Raphael Wallfisch and Ralph Kirshbaum.

Ma, fine cellist though he is, was born in Paris of Chinese parents and is resident at Harvard. A London Symphony Orchestra spokeswoman explained ingeniously: "Ma was invited because he is the best after Rostropovich."

West Berlin's local environment minister, Senator Volker Hassemer, is not rushing to adopt the idea of a new *Tagesspiegel* department suggesting that the heat generated in the city's three crematoria should be used to heat their chapels and administrative offices. Hassemer said his religious feelings were upset by the idea.

## Fine wine advice

Jancis Robinson signs off her editorship of *Which? Wine Monthly* in the March issue with an impressive re-run of just a few of the stories she has uncovered since she showed her first news-sheet through potential subscribers' letterboxes back in October 1977.

She updates her advice on how to decode wine labels (mug up the indicative numbers of the French wine-producing departments which should appear as the first two digits of the bottler's postcode address) and corks (the italians use local area codes which correspond to the initials on car licence plates).

Then there is a tip about reasonably priced wine at the Ritz (1), word of yet another big wine scandal brewing abroad and the consoling (for some) observation that "the British wine trade is too busy trying to stave off the bailiff at the moment to find the time for wholesale trickery."

## Home deliveries

President Brezhnev's scheme for home ownership in the Soviet Union offers state mortgages on delivery or guarantee of a live baby. The details, printed in *Izvestia*'s women's page supplement, Nedelya, show that pregnant wives and unmarried mothers under 20 are given priority for interest-free state loans of 1,500 roubles to be repaid over eight years.

Rebates of 200 roubles are offered for second babies, 300 roubles for a third and so on until the loan is cancelled completely. Further incentives include six months' holiday after each birth, gifts of 50 roubles or more and financial help to buy furniture. The firm mortgages will go to workers willing to move to Murmansk, Archangel, Karelia and Siberia, but if childrenless home-buyers must guarantee delivery of a first baby within three years of the loan.

## All talk

There was no Mr Speaker on hand to rule on the language when Austin Mitchell, Labour MP for Grimsby, suggested that the European Commission be told to "sod off." It happened during Mitchell's questioning of three women Treasury witnesses in a Commons select committee on Monday. The chairman, Mrs Edward du Cann, rephrased what he said Mitchell had put in "inlegant language."

There appears to have been no ruling on the parliamentary acceptability of Mitchell's phrase, either at Westminster or in the



Commonwealth, whence the latest of banned expressions does include "get stuffed" which "should be considered similar." Other terms outlawed in Commonwealth parliaments in 1980 included "character in a Tonga play" (Zambia) and "Arapawa goat" (New Zealand), and also, for more obvious reasons, "his mother made a misdeed" and "ditch the bitch."

## Outlook bright

Will whoever is being so churlish as to send threatening letters to the cheshire amateur weather forecaster William Foggitt play

stop? Agreed, last summer was not as warm as he predicted but he did correctly forecast the start of the winter freeze.

Yesterday the ruddy-faced naturalist revealed on a roof garden in Kensington that he, the one man ranged against the might of the Met, also receives abusive letters if his predictions go awry.

Armed with the tools of his trade — a strand of seaweed, giant fir cone, an aneroid barometer and a prodigious knowledge of meteorology — he will — Foggitt assured PHS that he is in for an early spring, a good June and a mild winter.

A pair of magpies inspecting sites for a nest a month early alerted him to the possibility of an early spring. Foggitt's building nests high in the trees suggest the birds know their homes are not going to be blown away.

## Eastern promise

Lorin Maazel, touring the far east with the Cleveland Orchestra, was so taken with the nightingale voice of Inchausti, first lady of the Philippines, that he offered her a contract with the Vienna State Opera, of which he is general manager designate.

Maazel's wife, a former winner of the Rose of Tacloban and Miss Manila beauty titles, entertained the whole orchestra to dinner after their concert, and joined in the singing of madrigals. The Iron Butterfly, however, flitted easily past Maazel's net, declining the invitation on the ground that affairs of state must always come first.

PHS





P.O. Box 7, 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

## POLICY, NOT PRAYER

Nobody a decade ago foresaw the first oil revolution, the manipulation of price and supply by the Opec cartel to achieve unthinkable prices. It added to inflation, it siphoned off demand into volatile Opec currency surpluses, and it is largely responsible for the world recession. Now at last it seems as if there is a break. Oil prices are falling. Yesterday's decision by the British National Oil Corporation to drop the price of oil by \$4 a barrel to \$31 will seem to be yet another recognition that the laws of a free market have been restored.

Mr William Simon, when Secretary of the United States Treasury, predicted that this would happen when oil reached 10 dollars a barrel and in what comes down must set in. What comes down can go up. It can do that with oil if the suppliers agree to cut production sufficiently, for oil still remains a finite source consumed more rapidly than it is found. The market price has changed over the last year because the drop in demand has been bigger than anyone, especially the suppliers, anticipated. The fall has been helped because high oil prices have induced a switch to alternative fuels, but it is largely because the world is in recession. Come the end of the recession and oil prices will rise again.

If Opec survives as a cartel,

and behaves as it did in the past with a disinclined industrial world, we may be in for a new era of oil shocks, the overnight doubling and tripling of prices. If that happens we can forget about a resumption of economic progress, our own oil does not protect us from world trade repercussions. We can hope, perhaps, that Opec breaks up which would mitigate the rises, but it would be wiser to have a policy than a prayer. We urged this some months ago; the opportunity has come sooner than we anticipated, and it is admittedly a delicate one.

The central aim is clear enough. It is to secure a more organised recognition of a truth: that there is a common interest between buyer and seller in an orderly market and a prospering world. The radicals in Opec will be deaf to reason, but the moderates know it now. The key country is Saudi Arabia. Only Saudi Arabia has the reserves and the producing potential to keep the world flush with oil — or starved of it. This is so whatever happens to Opec. Over the past few years of turmoil Saudi Arabia has consistently pursued within Opec and without a policy of price moderation. Both in its individual contacts with importing countries and through its chairmanship of the Opec long-term strategy group it has pressed the case that the

oil producers should be encouraged to keep oil production high in return for some kind of guarantee that their real incomes would be kept stable through price indexation.

There is common economic ground here. We could not expect Saudi Arabia to act against its own interests and see oil prices collapsing completely. But this is not a Western interest either, given our need to find substitutes and the investment already made by consumers in the North Sea, in nuclear power, in coal and in the development of shale oil and tar sands. The West should therefore now be thinking urgently of a concerted strategy. At the heart of it would be long-term oil deals built around more concrete trade relations through the EEC and OECD with the moderate Opec members and the involvement of Saudi Arabia in international institutions such as the IMF and the World Bank.

There is no need to contemplate offering any deal on Arab-Israeli politics in this. What the West can and should provide is a shield against aggression and subversion. If we do not take advantage of this opportunity, when the market is falling, we will simply have demonstrated that in the last decade we have forgotten everything and learned nothing.

## THESE ARE THY GODS, O LONDON!

Today is no time to be grudging. The Barbican arts centre, which the Queen will formally open this evening, is a piece of public munificence of a character nothing less than noble. The City, which stood the bill and remains half-stunned at what it has let itself in for, has provided the nation with a comprehensive setting for the arts as splendid as any in Europe, or perhaps the world. It is a gesture of a kind typical neither of the City nor of official Britain in general, and it appears all the more startling for having come to fruition in a period of cuts and closures. In retrospect, the 30 years covering the completion of the Festival Hall, the National Theatre and the Barbican complex is likely to appear a period of cultural capital investment for London that deserves comparison with the great building programmes of the mid-nineteenth century.

The two chief tenants of the new centre, the Royal Shakespeare Company and the London Symphony Orchestra, are capable of grasping the opportunities that extra elbow room will

give them. Fears that London audiences will be too supine to seek out the Barbican in worthwhile entertainment is on the whole overdone. The linking of arts centre and conference centre should help to bring customers to the doorstep and soften the burden of running costs. As for the Barbican estate itself, it is sorely in need of such a development to bring life to its windswept brick decks and unseen hanging water-gardens.

Of course, if we were starting out today, we would do it all quite differently. The arts centre is a product of the sixties, as the estate round it is of the fifties — admirable for boldness of conception, good intentions and scale of commitment, the high point of an extinct vision of city planning and architecture but a dinosaur nevertheless. Today the concentration of so many aesthetic eggs in one basket appears unnecessary, the unstated striving for splendour of provision and effect extravagant and the attempt to breathe community life into a collection of unfashionable towerblocks

hopeless. It seems positively perverse, when theatre and concert audiences are far from buoyant, to set up competition only a few thousand yards from the National Theatre and Festival Hall, when provincial music and theatre are starved of resources. Today we tend to feel the need to apologise for our centres of excellence.

But since we have it, it would be pusillanimous not to make the most of it. It is not structurally as welcoming as the Beaubourg centre in Paris, but it deserves to be managed with at least equal panache. The matter of extravagance is only relative, after all. Even though the centre has so exuberantly exceeded its original budgets (1982 returns almost ten times greater than 1970 estimate), the final bill is less than the price of a second-hand aircraft carrier. And when the Invincible and the Temeraire, it is a fair bet that queues will still be waiting hopefully for the computer to find them returns for Beethoven or King Lear at the Barbican.

## Natural foods and law

From Mr Craig Sans  
Sir, A House of Lords select committee is currently hearing evidence of how European countries, particularly the French, obstruct British exports of processed food. As a natural foods manufacturer deriving one third of our sales from exports, our experience is that the most difficult obstacles to exporting are raised by regulatory bodies in the United Kingdom.

Several years ago a Japanese brewer of soy sauce asked us to take over the supply of their natural product to their European customers. We were unable to take advantage of this offer as there was no way that we could recover spirit duty from HM Customs. Income tax on soy sauce in bonded warehouses and attempting to estimate demand from export customers. (Soy sauce, when brewed naturally, has a 1% per cent alcohol content, making it liable to spirit duty and encouraging the manufacture of non-durable soy sauce made from monosodium glutamate, caramel colour, sugar, and hydrolyzed protein.) Many other foods in the UK are in danger of losing their status as natural products. Proprietary glycol (antifreeze) is used as a flavouring base instead of ethyl alcohol and is quite rightly banned as an ingredient in many European countries, but British manufacturers have a strong disinclination against using a natural flavour base in products produced for the home market. The British consumer suffers by eating foods of inferior quality solely because of a duty aimed at alcoholic beverages but levied on foods made with natural ingredients.

Four years ago we developed a jam made with concentrated fruit juice instead of sugar as the sweetening ingredient. Three years of court appearances defending its composition led to a successful appeal. In the meantime we had just thousands of pounds defending a product that was legal and which we export to 12 European countries, Japan, and the United States while our domestic sales base was being constantly attacked. The Ministry of Agriculture told us they felt our appeal success was a "bad decision" and

have now changed the law, allowing for reduced sugar jams but prohibiting apple juice as an ingredient.

It is an unfortunate fact that the laws governing food in this country reflect existing practice and cannot accommodate innovation in recipes and ingredients. It is in processed recipe-based products that Britain can hope to achieve success in exporting, yet it is the (unsubsidized) manufacture of these foods that is the victim of pointless and profitless bureaucratic restraints.

Yours faithfully,  
C. SAMS,  
Harmony Foods Limited,  
Unit D,  
Western Trading Estate,  
Park Royal Road, NW10,  
February 26.

## Self-employed benefit

From Mr Lawrence Biddle  
Sir, Mr Robin A. Howard (February 23) draws attention to the introduction of retirement annuity relief for the self-employed in 1956, but he does not refer to the fact that the relief then given was quite inadequate and in no way comparable to the relief then allowed to employed persons. It was limited to 10 per cent of earnings with an annual ceiling of £750 until 1971 when the percentage was increased to 15 per cent and the ceiling to £1,500. More recently the ceiling has been abolished and the percentage further increased so that those currently self-employed can make much more adequate provision for retirement.

Both in 1956 and in 1971 small increments were allowed to persons born in or before 1915, but these were actually inadequate to make up for the long periods in which such a person had been able to obtain no tax relief on any provision for a retirement annuity. Mr Goodwin (February 13) and Mr Howard both take the view that there should be some relief from investment income surcharge for the retired self-employed who were working for a substantial period before 1956. Clearly such relief would have to be limited and the most sensible basis would be to give relief from investment income surcharge for

those who are over 65 and have relied on such an amount of investment income as would bring any pension income they may have up to two thirds of the annual average of their last three years' earnings before retirement (such limit to be index-adjusted annually).

If this basis were adopted it need not be limited to the self-employed. It could apply to all retired persons over 65 including, for example, to employed persons whose pension schemes were controlled by companies who retired before the legislation was altered to allow them to make provision for their retirement.

Those with index-linked pensions would be unlikely to benefit, but there would be no hardship in that.

Yours faithfully,  
LAWRENCE BIDDLE,  
The Woods,  
Leigh,  
Tonbridge,  
February 24.

## D'Oyly Carte farewell

From Mr R. A. Noakes  
Sir, As an octogenarian fan I was surprised that no references were made (report, March 1) to the thousands of amateur companies which have carried on the traditional performances for at least 80 years, and will certainly ensure that D'Oyly Carte "won't go".

In about 1921 I attended a performance of *The Gondoliers* by the Cambridge Amateur Operatic Company and Edward Robey, son of the famous comedian, was playing the part of the Duke of Plaza-Toro.

In 1970 I attended a performance of the same opera by the Marylebone Amateur Operatic Society and to my amazement the same man (who was now a distinguished baritone) played the Duke of Plaza-Toro!

This surely shows that D'Oyly Carte traditional performances will never die.

Yours sincerely,  
R. A. NOAKES,  
The Barn Cottage,  
Dean,  
Oxford,  
March 1.

## The freedom to tour South Africa

From Lord Chalfont

Sir, Will you allow a regular reader of your paper, once one of its regular contributors, to express his grave concern at the judgment and hypocrisy which has characterized much of the reaction to the decision of 12 cricket players to play in South Africa? Whether they should call themselves "an England Eleven" or "Boycott's Buccaneers" is a matter of legitimate if not world-shaking concern. There is, however, a much more profound issue involved, and it is important that it should not be obscured by some of the highly coloured and emotionally charged language employed by some politicians, sports officials and journalists.

The practice of discrimination on grounds of race or colour is understandably abhorrent to the civilized mind. Furthermore, it is legitimate to argue, even if it is not universally accepted, that the South African Government is not moving far enough or fast enough in dismantling the political apparatus which institutionalizes such practices. It is also reasonable to argue that the most effective way of influencing that Government is to isolate it, so far as possible, from the rest of the civilized world. It is also reasonable to hold the opposite view; and it is for the democratically elected Government of this country to make its foreign policies accordingly.

It is not reasonable, or indeed tolerable, that citizens of this country should be deprived, by harassment, blackmail or threat, of their freedom to pursue their sporting activities, either for pleasure or for gain, wherever they wish to do so. There is no law in this country, as there is in some others, which forbids travel abroad. United Kingdom citizens are therefore free to go to South Africa whenever they wish, on business or for pleasure.

The Government may, in its wisdom, forbid certain categories of commerce of trade for reasons of state; sporting bodies may justifiably decline to allow representative teams to travel under their auspices. No one has the right to tell an individual law-abiding British citizen where he may play his games, earn his living, or enjoy his leisure.

This fundamental freedom, cherished and protected by our own political system, is now threatened by meddlesome propagandists compiling offensive and politically inspired "blacklists" designed to threaten people with the loss of their livelihoods simply because they have chosen to exercise their indisputable rights as British citizens. It is claimed that the action of these cricket players might endanger England's future in international sport, jeopardize the forthcoming cricket tours by India and Pakistan, put at risk the Commonwealth Games and even disrupt the next Olympic Games. It would be depressing and deplorable if any of these things were to happen (although it should be noted that at least one of these events will include competitors from countries whose record in human rights is no better than that of South Africa). It would, however, be a small price to pay for preserving the freedom of choice of law-abiding citizens of this country.

There is, to me, only one thing of more profound concern than the denial of liberty in other countries; it is a threat to it in our own. What is almost as disturbing is the fact that no political party in this country seems prepared to stand up to this particular manifestation of the threat without equivocation or compromise.

Yours faithfully,  
CHALFONT,  
House of Lords,  
March 2.

## Poland's rulers and the people's liberty

From Mr Robert Kemball

Sir, Mr Rakowski's explanations (features, February 22 and 23) leave at least one other question unanswered. He asserts that martial law was the only alternative to civil war but, like others before him, fails to say how and why this war would have come about.

It takes two sides to fight a war. On the one side was the solidarity (the name was not chosen lightly) of 10 million industrial workers, 3.5 million land workers, the Polish intelligentsia and cultural elite, plus wives and children — the whole enjoying the broad moral caution of the Roman Catholic Church, to which, at least in this context, some 90 per cent and more of the nation belong. Since these people were not going to fight among themselves, the only conceivable adversary would presumably have been that of the Soviet Union, which, in the event, a rapidly shrinking minority of frightened, discredited party men representing no one but themselves and their Kremlin masters, despised (and now openly detested) by the nation as a whole.

Impotent, illegitimate, and irrelevant, they turned to their skins, to the armed forces, whose proper role is the defence of the realm (which no Pole threatened) and the safeguarding of Soviet communications, but no more. When General Jaruzelski refers to the "enemy" that will not lie down, he might reflect that it is he, by his ill-considered actions, who has made enemies of his countrymen and sown the seeds of dangerous confrontation. The tragedy of this man is that he was presented, as no other Pole since the War, with a God-sent opportunity to rally behind him, under the protection of the military, the flower of the Polish nation, eager and impatient for a genuine national revival, albeit at the expense of a corrupt, incompetent, and incurably inefficient régime.

## Alternatives to rates

From Lord Thorneycroft, CH  
Sir, "Can we really do away with the rates?" (feature, March 1).

Mr Christopher Johnson's interesting article on the Government's Green Paper contains the following assertion: "[Its] suggestions... are based on the dubious premise that local authorities must have their own sources of income in order to have some independence from the central Government".

Mr Johnson may find this a dubious premise but I doubt if many other people will.

Mr Johnson is Group Economic Adviser to Lloyds Bank. If Lloyds Bank lacked any source of revenue of its own and was financed exclusively by central government, I can assure him that it would have little independence of action.

The same would be true of any district council.

Whether we think this a good or a bad thing, it is clearly a much more important constitutional issue than his otherwise admirable article appears to recognise.

Yours faithfully,  
THORNEYCROFT,  
House of Lords,  
March 1.

## Flight of fancy

From Mr R. H. C. Neville  
Sir, As few reasonable people wish to see Stansted Airport greatly enlarged why do we not keep it just for hijackings? They handle them well there.

Yours faithfully,  
ROBIN H. C. NEVILLE,  
Estate Office,  
Audley End,  
Saffron Walden,  
Essex,  
March 1.

## The Amersham deal

From Mr R. N. Wadhwa

Sir, A number of points can be made about the relative merits of fixed-price offers for sale and offers by tender which may help to clear the air over the Amersham affair.

In the first place a tender is a clumsy method involving a longer underwriting period and its aim is to control or restrict public application by transferring some of the responsibility for pricing the offer on to the applicants. It should, therefore, be regarded as a method of last resort.

Having said that, there are circumstances in which it is the only way of avoiding the embarrassment of a huge over-subscription and a large premium at the opening price. This is so when the company in question is unique, so that no comparison of value can be made with any existing quoted companies, and even more so when the company's activities are of a mysterious or highly sophisticated kind, which have produced an outstanding record of earnings growth and promise the same for the future, as in the case of Amersham.

Fairly recent examples among important companies are Rentokil, which for the reasons given was rightly offered by tender, and Sainsbury, which was, also rightly, offered at a fixed price. There is little doubt that Amersham should have been offered by tender. No amount of professional advice will tell you

## Objections to compulsory service

From Mr M. G. Smith

Sir, The attempt in your leading article (February 27) to distinguish arguments about compulsory service from arguments about unemployment must surely fail. There are at least two major areas of objection to any proposal for compulsory service — the political and the practical. Stable democracy is possible only because of some informal contract that binds citizens (your word) the elements of society. One of these elements is the young.

Conscription was acceptable to Napoleon's compatriots (your quotation) to preserve the *liberté, égalité*, etc, that they had won. It was acceptable to young Britons convinced that Nazism must end. These were great reasons for conscription. It was retained here for some postwar years in the twilight of victory while large residual overseas commitments declined.

Your editorial could offer no comparable common purposes today to win the support and obedience of alienated young people seeing little future for themselves and conscious of little or no stake in our static society. Without a wide measure of voluntary acceptance, conscription in a democracy must fail. Conscription would sharpen the tensions between the haves and have nots and play into extremist hands.

The practical difficulties are equally formidable. I do not know whether the Armed Forces training resources, especially of competent instructors, could manage efficiently a large influx of conscripts. But unhappily in this big city at least police and armed forces are often seen as the heavy arm of an uncaring establishment.

I believe that most conscripts would opt for community service.

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## Clergy's morale

From Mrs Jane Myles

Sir, Clifford Longley (article, February 22) is quite right to have emphasized last week's debate of the General Synod on the lack of pastoral care for clergy. As a clergy wife myself, I can only confirm the devastating effect on family morale and on my own career at being informed by letter without previous notice that we would have six months to get out of the parish (with no alternative offered) to make way for a scheme of pastoral reorganization.

When a man is ordained, his bishop lays hands on him, and he, in turn, in good faith places himself and his family in those episcopal hands. He continues to preach about the "caring church" when they themselves experience that same church as being an uncaring and faceless bureaucracy?

Yours faithfully,  
JANE MYLES,  
St Peter's Vicarage,  
48 Ladbroke Road, W11.

## Tasting notes

From Mr Joseph Berkmann

Sir, After all the pleasant things M Robert Courtine said about Locketts a fortnight ago (feature, February 13), I pray that he may not think me too ungracious for commenting, as I must, upon his notes on Locketts's wine list on Saturday, February 27, and the "scandalous" 1979 Beaujolais from Piat at £10. Locketts do not list this wine, nor have ever done so. The only Beaujolais we sell is Dubouche's Beaujolais Villages 1980, currently at £5.50.

M Courtine is also unfair to the Rouge de Champagne, which was selected with great care from a new cooperative in the South of France, not just because one cannot bear the spectacle of irate wine growers burning tyres on French motorways, but because it is really well-made wine. And at £3.85 a bottle in one of London's more expensive restaurants, this must surely represent good value if one remembers that of that amount, £1.20 is handed to Customs and Excise in duty and VAT.

Yours faithfully,  
JOSEPH BERKMANN,  
Berkmann Restaurants Ltd.,  
PO Box 18Q, London W1.

We have much recent experience of this concept. In the MSC (Manpower Services) Commission schemes now to be submitted in Mr Tebbit's new training initiative. It would be unwise to dedicate individuals and organisations to say that the community enterprise schemes and their like have largely failed. But they have exposed three major weaknesses:

1 The MSC (which has striven valiantly against time and cross-currents) lacks the depth of manpower resources even for its present work of bureaucracy abhorrence.

2 There is an even more crucial shortage of instructors/trainers/foremen combining both technical competence and the skills and temperament to manage groups of young people without experience of organised labour.

3 Competent business gives its recruits training and work experience before approving them for work with their clients. Unless community service means simply unskilled labour, assigning community tasks to unskilled conscripts (with a little leaven of struggle to human experience. And what are the sanctions when bored conscripts stay away? A broken-down effort would increase disillusion.

The impending offer of voluntary adventure training with the Armed Forces is a different animal. Encouraging a good take-up from the huddled inner cities will be difficult. We should try hard and if it works there may yet be a few puffs of fresh air through stifled streets.

Yours faithfully,  
MAURICE SMITH,  
Chairman, Lambeth Area Youth Committee,  
123 Sefton Road, SW9,  
March 1.

what price the public will put on something they recognise as being very attractive, but which cannot be compared with anything else and which they do not even fully understand.

The plea for the fixed-price offer being fairer to the small investor has only limited validity. Many have been the cases of professional stags employing numbers of people to make out multiple small applications in the expectation of a bigger allotment, supported by cheques which, if they had all been presented, would not have been honoured.

It is an area that is full of pitfalls, but it would be a pity if the next offer sponsored by the Government were to be one for a fixed price and yet an offer by tender were resorted to because of the furore over Amersham. That would undoubtedly produce a result that was not in the public interest.

Yours faithfully,  
R. N. WADHAM,  
Myline Field,  
Great Amwell,  
Ware,  
Hertfordshire,  
February 26.

## Challenging juries

From Mr J. A. C. Spokes, QC

Sir, His Honour Gilbert Leslie suggests (February 27) the defence should only be allowed to challenge a juror for good cause established in open court. Such a course could lead to much preliminary argument, now avoided. It can have unintended side effects, as an example will show.

There is little doubt that I challenged a juror, unwisely adding the cause, that the defendant's husband knew the juror. The juror left the jury box. The next juror said he knew the husband. I also left the jury box. Neither the defendant nor her husband had ever seen that second juror before.

As recently as 1977 Parliament reduced the peremptory challenges from seven to three. It caused concern at the Bar, but that also is another story.

If multiple challenges are disliked because they are occasionally open to abuse when many defendants are tried together, an effective remedy is to order separate trials. Such a course might shorten some of our longer trials, as well as leaving intact an individual defendant's three challenges.

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN A. C. SPOKES,  
3 Pump Court,  
Temple, EC4,  
February 27.

## Sea of troubles

From Mr Peter Cochrane

Sir, Your Diarist and your correspondent Mr Cartwright (February 26), as well as Mr Robin Cook MP, would have done well to read the *Odyssey* before offering faulty criticism to Mrs Thatcher.

*Odysseus's* tactics in resisting the Sirens' voices were wholly successful. What led to the eventual shipwreck was the later refusal of the crew (wets, perhaps?) to follow their captain's instructions. By killing and eating the sacred cattle of the Sun, and so inviting the god's revenge, they sacrificed tomorrow's safe return to today's gluttony.

Yours faithfully,  
PETER COCHRANE,  
12 Warrander Park Terrace,  
Edinburgh,  
February 26.

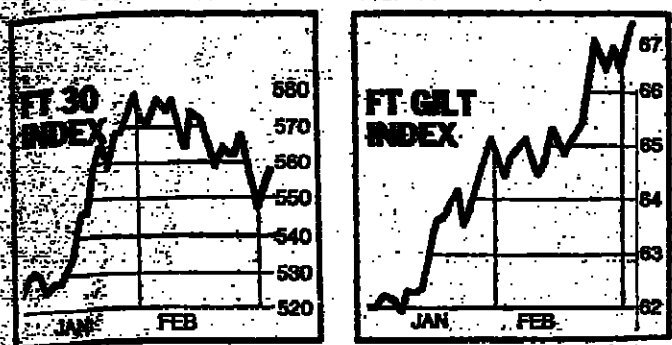






## BUSINESS NEWS

## Optimistic trends



Last week's pessimism surrounding interest rates and the budget has apparently been swept away and the FT 30 index has resumed its upward trend. Since the close of last Friday the index has risen 10.5 to 557.8. Meanwhile the gilt market has also moved further ahead as investors have grown more optimistic about interest rate and inflation prospects.

## Bell to drop ACC bids

Australian financier Mr Robert Holmes a Court is almost certain to withdraw one or both of the Bell Group's takeover bids for Associated Communications Corporation, where he is chairman and chief executive. It is still unclear, after the Appeal Court judgment, if offered by rival Mr Gerald Ronson's Heron Corporation. A third bidder could still emerge in the person of millionaire publisher Mr Robert Maxwell, but he has yet to take preliminary moves any further.

## US Steel in merger battle

Marathon Oil shareholders yesterday launched a final campaign to block the second biggest merger in American history in hopes of getting a better price for their shares from U.S. Steel, the buyer, which already owns 51 per cent of Marathon's outstanding shares which were acquired for \$125 a share in the first step of its takeover bid. Under Ohio law, the state where Marathon is based — U.S. steel must garner a total of 66% of the outstanding shares in order to formally seal the proposed merger.

## Volcker expects US upturn

Mr Paul Volcker, the United States Federal Reserve Board chairman, said that, while maintaining discipline, his money growth targets would accommodate an economic recovery "later this year". He told the Senate Budget Committee: "I believe that there are strong reasons to expect a cyclical upturn later this year."

Dr Otto Lambrichts, the West German Economics Minister, said he saw no scope for a reduction in United States interest rates in the foreseeable future.

American Telephone and Telegraph has issued its first Eurobond at \$400 with a seven-year maturity, bond market sources said in London. Final terms will be set next Tuesday.

## Excise warning

The European Commission has warned Britain over the inequitable taxation of imported alcoholic drinks. Excise duties are imposed on these drinks at the point of importation, home-produced drinks are taxed towards the end of the retail pipeline. The Commission considers this contravenes the Treaty of Rome.

## Reserves rise

Britain's gold and foreign currency reserves rose last month by \$148m (£81m) to \$23,573m. After public sector borrowing at the point of the underlying increase was reduced to \$36m. The pound ended February 5 cents down on the dollar (\$1.8225) and 3 pence down on the Deutsche mark (DM 4.34).

## MARKET SUMMARY

## Gifts lead on cash hope

## LONDON EXCHANGE

FT Index 557.8 up 7.0  
FT Gilt 87.30 up 0.39  
FT All Share 321.15 up 3.97  
Bargains 23,804

The prospect of a cut in interest rates after next week's Budget saw most sections of the market in a confident mood again yesterday.

Gifts led the way strengthened by further indications from the money markets of cheaper money. In long prices rose by up to 2½, while in shorts the gains were limited to 2½/16.

Equities also made headway although lack of sellers had a few jobs squaring particularly in electricals where many of the rises among the leaders were exaggerated.

The FT Index, after opening 551.5 up at 10am, closed 7.0 up at 557.8.

The reduction of \$4 a barrel in North Sea oil prices was discounted and made little difference to share prices after hours. BP ended the day 2½ up at 285½, Shell 2½ up at 340, Esso 12½ up at 285½ and Tricentral 4½ up at 185½. However, Ultramar was a nervous feature closing only 9½ up at 380½, ahead of full year figures today.

Analysts are looking for unchanged fourth quarter profits of about \$20m making \$30m for the year against \$75m last time. But rumours of a possible rights

## COMMODITIES

● Sustained buying by the International Tin Agreement buffer stock and by some tin users pushed the cash price of the metal up by \$55 to £7,090 a tonne. Three months tin closed \$20 lower, however, at £7,205. Dealers reported continued selling from the source which until a week ago had been the lower dominating the market. A special meeting of the International Tin Council will be held in London on Monday to discuss calling up buffer stock contributions which could buy 15,000 tonnes of tin.

● Crude oil prices dropped on futures down on the London International Petroleum Exchange to their lowest since it opened last April. A possible \$4 cut in Brent prices caused spot gas oil prices to fall by \$5 to \$26.6 a tonne. The May and June contracts were the lowest priced at \$26.75 and \$26.47 respectively.

## TODAY

Industry and Trade Select Committee starts examination of the Post Office. Institute of Fiscal Studies discusses latest revenue document on tax, duties and residence. National Economic Development Council monthly meeting. Advance energy statistics (January).

Board meetings: Interbank, Comptel International, Consol, United Gold Fields, Metamex, Foreign Funds, Pledging Investment, General Accident, International Investment Trust, Liberty Life Association, Owners Alford, Ultramar.

## OTHER EXCHANGES

Tokyo: Nikkei Dow Jones average 7,309.41 down 18.03  
Hongkong: Hang Seng Index 1,231.77 down 5.84

## CURRENCIES

● Sterling weakened against all leading currencies behind the \$4 oil price cut and expectations of lower United Kingdom interest rates.

## LONDON CLOSE

Sterling \$1.8140 down 75 points  
Index 90.7 down 0.4  
DM 4.3300  
FF 11.0200  
Yen 432.00

Dollar Index 113.3 down 0.2  
DM 2.3777 down 93 points

Gold \$360.50 up 75 cents

## MONEY MARKETS

● Period rates turned easier. The bank, forecasting a shortage of £1,150m, bought \$55m of bills overnight at unchanged rates and £98m of bills for repurchase by the houses on March 9.

Domestic Rates: Base rates 13½%  
3-month interbank 13½-13¾  
Euro-currency rates: 3-month dollar 14½-14¾  
3-month DM 9½-9¾  
3-month Fr.F 15½-15¾

## Banks warned of risks in international lending

By Peter Wilson-Smith, Banking Correspondent

A warning to banks to be more careful over their international lending was sounded yesterday by Mr Christopher McMahon, deputy governor of the Bank of England.

Addressing the Jersey Bankers' Association, Mr McMahon said that although the international banking system had proved resilient to the growth in lending and upheavals of the 1970s, there was little doubt that the combination of slow world growth and the likelihood of an increasing burden of debt in real terms was increasing the risks in international lending.

Although there had been a marked increase in spreads and fees over the past year or so, it is difficult to be happy with the returns banks are making on international lending, particularly sovereign lending, he said.

Mr McMahon said there was still some way to go before the returns would be commensurate with the risks.

He also questioned whether the banks should be making the decisions on the financing of rational balance of payments, despite their indispensable role in smoothing the recycling of the past decade. "I feel that this subject is properly the International Monetary Fund's work, and as this becomes ever more central I would argue that we should seek and encourage a greater role for the IMF over the coming years."

Mr McMahon said that in such a difficult environment the banks need to be even more meticulous in the appraisal of individual risks and in ensuring that risks are carefully distributed.

"Bank supervisors for their part have to set exacting standards of prudent behaviour, and ensure that these standards are maintained," he said.

## The pound holds up despite oil price cut

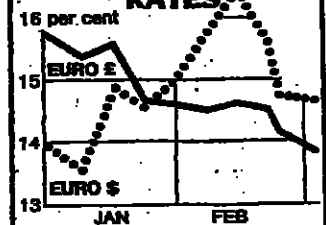
By John Whitmore

News of the proposed \$4 cut in the North Sea oil price to \$31 a barrel upset the pound only marginally yesterday and did little to disturb City hopes of a further cut in interest rates soon.

Although the \$4 reduction in the oil price is right at the top end of expectations, sterling's fall on the day was confined to 75 points at \$1.8140. Its index against a basket of currencies finished 0.4 lower at 30.7.

So long as second thoughts in the foreign exchange market do not put heavier downward pressure on the

3 mth INTEREST RATES



pound over the rest of the week, the City will continue to look for a further cut in interest rates soon after next week's Budget.

While it is recognized that the lower oil price will keep the Government's oil revenues lower in the next financial year than they would otherwise have been, thus limiting the Chancellor's room for manoeuvre, there is still a strong feeling that Sir Geoffrey Howe will come up with a package designed to enable interest rates to fall.

Although a liquidity shortage kept short-term interest rates firm yesterday, period rates in the money market continued to ease.

The gilt edged market also enjoyed another good day. Further good gains among long dated stocks were finally trimmed back by about 25p since the United States bond market faltered, but gains still ranged up to 75p. Shares also had a good session and the Financial Times 30 share index closed 7 times higher at 557.8.

Business Editor, page 15



Patrick Milford-Slade: six years' service on council

## Cazenove partner elected SE deputy chairman

By Philip Robinson

Mr Patrick Milford-Slade, a partner in top stockbrokers Cazenove has been elected to replace Mr Peter Willis as deputy chairman of the Stock Exchange in June when Mr Willis will retire as deputy at the end of the Exchange year.

It is the second change at the Exchange's senior level to be announced in a month. In mid-February, Mr Robert Fell chief executive for seven years, resigned to continue as Securities Commissioner in Hongkong, a position he had held on a secondment basis for just one month before the colony's government asked for it to become permanent. Mr Fell is replaced by Mr Jeffrey Knight.

Mr Milford-Slade, aged 45, has served on the Exchange ruling council for six years and helped prepare the market's evidence to the Wilson Committee, and the opening statement of case for rotation. Of these, two will need to be replaced by new council members.

Trading in the Restrictive Practices Court.

He joined Cazenove in 1968 and after two years spent mainly in the New Issue Department, became a member of the executive of the Panel on Takeovers & Mergers. He became a Stock Exchange member in 1971 and a partner of Cazenove the next year.

He is at present chairman of the technical services committee, vice-chairman of the disciplinary committee — which is conducting hearings involving partners of the former stockbroking firm Halliday, Simpson — and is a member of the quotations committee.

Mr Willis will remain a member of the Exchange's 46-man council and is likely to be joined by new members when elections take place on June 21.

Although nominations have yet to be opened it is understood that about a dozen members retire by rotation. Of these, two will need to be replaced by new council members.

## Warrant out for Andrew Warburg

By Lorna Bourke

A warrant has been issued for the arrest of Mr Andrew Warburg, a director of investment advisers Norton Warburg, which collapsed in February last year owing to creditors more than £3m.

Mr Warburg, 37, failed to appear at Kingston Crown Court yesterday for his public examination in bankruptcy. The hearing had been adjourned last October so that Mr Warburg could appeal to the Divisional Court for a postponement until investigation into his financial empire had been completed.

The appeal was refused. Mr Warburg told the Divisional Court that he was in danger of incriminating himself if he answered questions at a public examination. The Official Receiver, Mr Peter Joyce, told the court he had received a letter from Mr Warburg to say that he was unable to attend owing to circumstances beyond his control.

The Registrar took the unusual step of immediately issuing a warrant for his arrest, and the proceedings were adjourned indefinitely.

Norton Warburg's failure in February, 1981 caused reverberations throughout the City and the investment world because of its involvement with the Bank of England and the pop group Pink Floyd.

Small investors who had been persuaded to invest in Norton Warburg because of its apparently impeccable credentials lost nearly £5m in the company's collapse, and the Fraud Squad have been investigating its affairs.

Creditors of Norton Warburg living in Wimbledon noticed last week that Mr Warburg's house at 12 Colborne Road was apparently empty. The house belongs to Mr Warburg's wife, Carole. "Now I just feel as though I have been robbed" was the reaction from a widow who invested her husband's life assurance money with the firm.

Investors in Norton Warburg Investment Management are due to receive their final dividend from the liquidator this month, bringing the total to between 60p and 66p in the £1.

But several creditors of Norton Warburg have lost everything and are contemplating legal action against Lloyds Bank, which acted as bankers to the company.

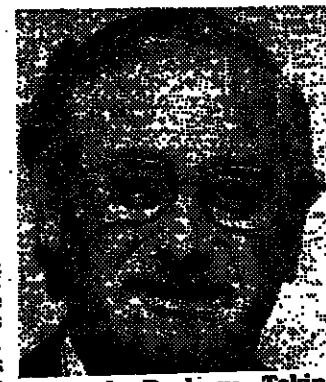
The Ombudsman has indicated that he will investigate the affair.

## £25m LOAN LIMIT PROPOSED

By Our Financial Staff

A £25m loan limit is among a number of more detailed proposals drawn up by the Gyrlls study group to back up its recommendations on bank lending. The group has recommended that interest on loans over 5 years which are used for investment should be paid net of corporation tax and are now suggesting the limit for each company and its subsidiaries should be set at £25m.

The Gyrlls proposals, which have attracted much interest in Whitehall, could effectively halve the interest burden which industry pays on part of its borrowings and boost cash flow by giving companies immediate tax relief on interest on loans which qualify under the scheme. The study group, set up by Mr Michael Gyrlls, chairman of the Conservative backbench industry committee who was influential in getting the loan guarantee scheme accepted, had a further meeting with Department of Industry officials last week to discuss the introduction of the scheme is likely to require legislation.



Kenneth Durham: Taking over in May.

Sir David Orr: Stepping down at Unilever.

£408m, despite a sharp increase in cost of sales from £198m to £259m.

Sir David Orr, who became chairman of Unilever PLC, the British arm of the company, in 1974, is due to retire after the company's annual meeting in May. He will be replaced by Mr Kenneth Durham, vice-chairman.

Unilever, the Anglo-Dutch food combine, defied the international recession last year by increasing pretax profits to £708m from £572m. The final dividend is 24.1p gross, bringing the year's total to 38.4p gross, a rise of 17 per cent. The shares ended the day 5p higher at 665p.

The 24 per cent higher pretax profit was based on exchange rates at the end of 1980 and 1981. If comparable rates are used the increase is 12 per cent, but profits still rose much faster than sales volume or value. While sales volume went up by only 2 per cent, sales to third parties were £11,890m compared with £10,152m in 1980.

Unilever says that in the third and fourth quarters of 1981 the squeeze on real incomes in Europe began to be reflected in sales. Performance was also sluggish in the United States.

Outside Europe and north America sales grew quickly. An increase from £29.4m to £55.4m in the share of operating profit from associated companies was chiefly attributable to west Africa, especially Nigeria. The improvement in French West Africa was particularly good.

Profits were helped by lower raw material prices, notably edible oils. But the difference between growth and sales and profits also points to higher margins and productivity.

For the first time the company has published a comparable current cost figures. On this basis, pretax profits rose 24 per cent to

## Beer group chief resigns

By Peter Wainwright

Mr John King, 52, has resigned as chief executive of the £159m Scottish & Newcastle Breweries, the Youngers Tartan beer and Kestrel Lager group which now has a quarter share in Vladimir Vodka. Mr King has also left the board.

Sir Peter Balfour, chairman, has taken over Mr King's responsibilities but he still plans to retire by the end of next year.

He reached the group's normal retirement age of 60 last year but the board gave him a two year extension. He will not look outside the group for a new chief executive.

Mr King joined as chief executive from Metal Box four years ago. The chairman said he brought to Scottish & Newcastle "a wide experience of management at all levels".

Last night Mr Balfour did not disclose why Mr King had left. The parting was however "amicable".

The chairman added: "I have a united board behind me."

The City was speculating yesterday that Mr King had been made a scapegoat for the failure of group profits to grow since his appointment, and that he could well have disagreed with the rest of the board about the future direction of the group, in particular the desirability or otherwise of a merger. In July, it is believed, Scottish might well report maintained profits for the year to last April.

## Profit at Unilever jumps to £708m

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## British Shipbuilders aims to 'leapfrog the competition' Three-year plan to boost yard output

By Peter Hill, Industrial Editor

British Shipbuilders has embarked on a three-year programme to boost productivity levels in United Kingdom shipyards by as much as 50 per cent.

Spearheading the project will be A & P Appleford International, a firm of British shipyard consultants which, over the past few years has been heavily involved in establishing shipyards, notably in South Korea, which now pose a serious challenge even to Japanese yards.

Announcing the programme yesterday Mr Robert Atkinson, British Shipbuilders' chairman said: "Our aim is to develop and utilize techniques which will enable us to leapfrog the competition. For years, the United Kingdom, which taught the world how to build ships, has pioneered technological innovations only to see other countries implement them to greater effect."



Mr John Parker: responsible for merchant shipbuilding. That situation has now changed.

Appleford International has been asked to carry out a detailed assessment of all 23 yards operated by British Shipbuilders and to advise on design, training, capital development and wider application of computer techniques.

The company, established originally by the ill-starred Court Line and London & Overseas Freighters long before the United Kingdom shipbuilding industry was nationalized, has derived 95 per cent of its business in recent years from overseas consultancy work.

It played a leading role in the establishment of South Korea's first major shipbuilding facility operated by Hyundai. More recently, it was involved in setting up Daewoo Shipbuilding which has already won orders from United Kingdom companies and whose capacity will be 20 per cent larger than that of BS.

Apart from consultancy services — worth up to £3m — the company has also provided BS with its first director of performance improvement and productivity. Dr Roger Vaughan, supported by a small team of specialists, will be responsible for computer technology and central computing operations with the state shipbuilding organization.

Last year, British Shipbuilders managed to secure a 15 per cent improvement in productivity levels in its merchant shipbuilding yards but output per man still lags well behind that of major competitors, especially in Japan and South Korea.

Yards which will face an early scrutiny include Scott Lithgow on the lower Clyde, Swan Hunter on Tyneside and Austin & Pickersgill on Wearside.

British Shipbuilders is planning to spend about £50m on the introduction of computers to aid design and fabrication work and cut down its high unit costs. The productivity improvement programme formed part of a series of organizational changes aimed at accelerating progress towards early viability.

## Prestige

Mr. David Lawman reports on 1981

The following is an extract from the Statement by the Chairman, Mr D. J. T. Lawman, which has been circulated with the Report and Accounts for the year ended 31st December, 1981.

Profit for the year before taxation improved by 16.8% to £6,622,000 (1980 - £5,669,000), although sales were marginally below the previous year's level.

This result reflects the important contribution to profit from the measures taken to improve productivity and efficiency. During a period of depressed trading conditions both in the United Kingdom and in the majority of our other European markets, the Group's overall performance has had the benefit of a substantial increase in earnings from our subsidiaries in Australia and South Africa. The steps taken to improve the efficiency of the Group combined with a strict control on working capital requirements have led to a further strengthening of the balance sheet.

The Board is recommending a final ordinary dividend of 17.5% making a total for 1981 of 27.5% (1980 - 27.5%). This dividend is covered 3.1 times by profit after tax.

1981 IN BRIEF	1981 £000	1980 £000
Sales	64,189	64,815
Profit before tax	6,622	5,669
Earnings per share	21.3p	19.2p

Copies of the 1981 Accounts and the Chairman's Statement may be obtained from the Secretary, The Prestige Group PLC, Prestige House, 14-18 Holborn, London EC1N 2LQ. The Annual General Meeting will be held in London on 24th March, 1982.

Manufacturers of 'Prestige', 'Skyline', 'Ewbank', & 'O-Cedar' household products.

Overseas companies operating in Australia, Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, New Zealand, South Africa, Spain, Sweden.







## BUSINESS NEWS/FOCUS AND COMMENT

## PEOPLE

## Sir Henry's travels in the past

Sir Henry Marking, who has been reappointed for a further two years as chairman of the British Tourist Authority, seems to be riding a wave of popularity. He is the only man to have been awarded the BTA's "The Way We Travel" award for the past three years. He is also the only man to have been awarded the BTA's "The Way We Travel" award for the past three years.

Henry, on the other hand, is a part both of the past and the future. He is the only man to have been awarded the BTA's "The Way We Travel" award for the past three years. He is also the only man to have been awarded the BTA's "The Way We Travel" award for the past three years.

## Sir Henry Marking

term as BTA chairman, Sir Henry's connection with the British tourist industry goes back over 30 years. He joined BTA as a solicitor in 1949, and became deputy chairman of British Airways in 1972.

But even this eminence does not protect one from the perils of air travel. I remember sitting on a BA flight with Sir Henry and Rose Stainton, then chairman of British Airways.

The cabin staff did not have the drink Stainton asked for and Sir Henry sat on something sticky, a left-over from the meal served on the plane's previous flight.

Macbeth Menzies has left the board of the 75-year-old independent North British Steel Group after a career remarkable by any standards. He has been chairman for 50 years.

How to stay on top for half a century, and be managing director for 40 years of that time? Mr. Menzies, who now becomes president of the Bathgate-based group, he says, turned "a run-of-the-mill foundry into one of the most technologically advanced in Europe".



"Absolutely fascinating fluctuations — his cardiogram follows the base lending rate graph."

## All along to Hollycombe Fair

With a bit of luck, Bill Brewer, Ian Stewer, Peter Cusker, Peter Davy, Dan Whiddon and Harry Hawk will join Uncle Tom Cobbleigh this summer at the Hollycombe Steam Fair, now to be found at Penwith Pleasure Park on the A38 near Penzance.

It is the only known complete working steam train and it joins other steamy wonders like a three abreast roundabout, one of the only two surviving steam yachts, steam organs and swings.

The hope is that some of the two million visitors to the orange and blue scene of Land's End will stop off on the way. Congratulations to the Industrial and Commercial Finance Corporation which actually bought the Steam Fair for £250,000 and then leased it to the Pleasure Park. ICFC can use capital allowances on the equipment. Money nearly forbids me to identify ICFC's young Peter Smith, of Bako, the inventor of this ingenious little scheme.

## Peter Wainwright

## NEW APPOINTMENTS

Mr. Robert C. Tomkinson has been appointed financial director for international vehicle component manufacturer Automotive Products.

Mr. John Anderson Kay has been appointed to the board of the Border & Southern Stockholders Trust.

## The arithmetic of North Sea oil — who wins and who loses?

Falling world oil prices have forced the British National Oil Corporation to concede another cut in North Sea prices, this time by \$4 a barrel, bringing the UK price down to \$31. Jonathan Davis explains why it has happened and examines the implications for Government, oil industry and consumer.

## Why have North Sea oil prices been cut?

There are a number of contributory factors, but fundamentally it is a question of supply and demand. There is a surplus on the world oil market of between 2.5 and 3m barrels a day, equivalent to around five per cent of world oil demand. Stocks of oil held by government and oil companies are also still at very high levels. Despite attempts to run down last year, the International Energy Agency in Paris estimates existing stocks amount to more than 100 days supply — close to the all-time high.

With the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) in disarray, the surplus is exerting strong downward pressure on prices. Britain, which now produces about 1.9 million barrels a day from the North Sea, making it the non-communist world's fifth largest oil producer, cannot afford to ignore the price signals.

The official three-month term contract price for North Sea oil, which is effectively fixed by negotiation between the British National Oil Corporation (BNOC) and all the oil companies operating in the North Sea, has been \$35 a barrel, having been reduced from \$36.50 on February 8. But it is now possible to buy a cargo of North Sea oil on the "spot" market, where traders buy and sell non-contract oil, for \$30 a barrel or even less.

At the start of the year, the "spot" price was roughly equivalent to the contract price of \$36.50 a barrel, although it has to be stressed that "spot" market sales only account for less than five per cent of total North Sea production — so it is not a totally reliable indicator.

There is another side to the equation. Because of the recession and successful attempts by industry to conserve energy (or to switch to coal), demand for oil has fallen sharply. Last year it was down by seven per cent. Oil companies, which already have more capacity in their refineries than they can use, are making heavy losses at these so-called "downstream" operations on sales of fuel oil, heating oil and petrol.

Large oil companies such as BP, Shell and Esso have been saying that on average the value of the oil products they are producing at their refineries is only equivalent to about \$31 a barrel. If their North Sea crude oil supplies the feedstock — costs \$35 a barrel, they are bound to be making a loss. They therefore need lower North Sea prices, and they have not been prepared to wait until the middle of this month, when three-month term contracts would normally be renegotiated for the second

quarter. They want the cut this quarter.

There is one other factor. The Inland Revenue assesses the oil companies' North Sea tax liability on the basis of the official posted price, regardless of what price it is actually sold at. If they cannot obtain that price, then they are still taxed at that higher level, which they claim is unfair.

## What would have happened if BNOC had refused to cut prices?

British National Oil Corporation is the North Sea price setter, because it trades about 1.2 million barrels of oil a day out of the North Sea total output of 1.9 million barrels a day. A large proportion of this oil is required to handle by law under "participation" agreements with oil companies, designed to ensure that Britain can control its supplies if and when there is a world shortage. The oil has to be traded between BNOC and the companies at "market prices".

Now there is a surplus, it is feeling the other side of the coin. If it had failed to cut prices, a number of its contract customers would have refused to renew their contracts, which would have left BNOC to sell the surplus oil at what would almost certainly be a substantial loss.

A \$4 a barrel loss on say 100,000 barrels a day would cost BNOC — and ultimately its owners, the British taxpayers — \$400,000 a day, which is unthinkable. Overall, BNOC aims, and just about manages, to break even on its oil trading activities.

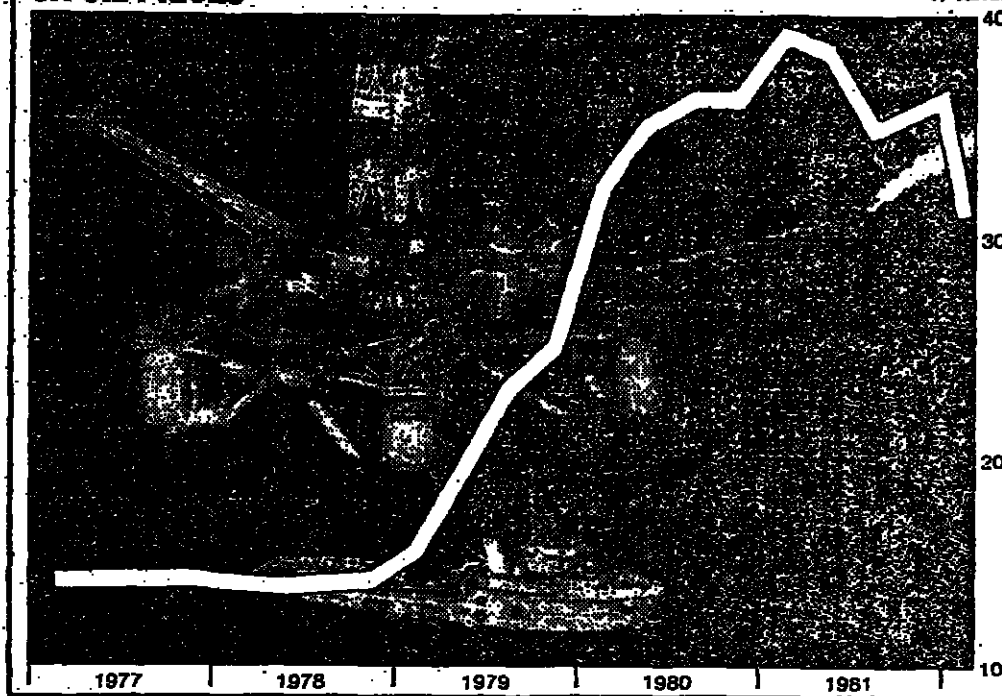
BNOC could have tried to hang on until the second quarter renegotiations, but it does not normally pay to alienate customers who are losing money. In any case, the companies had a clause in their existing contract which allowed them to reopen negotiations in the light of unexpected movements in world oil prices. BNOC has now apparently tried to eliminate that clause from its latest offer. The offer is conditional on the companies not reopening negotiations if Saudi Arabia or Nigeria, which produce similar quality oil — cut their prices in the four months to June.

If BNOC had failed to cut prices, another — more remote — possibility is that companies would have started to cut back production from the North Sea, as BP did with its Forties field last year when it was last pressing for price cuts.

## Who will lose and who will gain most?

The most immediate losers are the Treasury and smaller independent oil companies which have to pay for the Treasury's share of the £2,000 million in lost North Sea revenue in the next

## UK OIL PRICES



## WHAT THE GOVERNMENT GETS

	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985
Government revenues from North Sea Oil:										
Royalties £bn	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.6	1.0	1.3	1.5	1.7	2.2	2.6
PRT £bn	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.8	1.9	2.9	3.2	3.9	5.0	6.5
Corporation tax £bn	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.5	0.7	1.2	1.3	1.7	2.1
Supplementary tax £bn	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.0	2.3	2.6	3.5	4.0
Total Revenue:										
A. at present prices £bn	0.1	0.2	0.5	1.5	3.4	6.9	8.2	9.5	12.4	15.2
B. at 1982 prices £bn	0.2	0.3	0.8	2.1	4.2	7.6	8.2	8.6	10.2	11.4

All figures except those on line B are at present rather than constant prices.

\*Petroleum Revenue Tax.  
Source: Phillips and Drew.

financial year. The effect will be offset by the general beneficial effects of oil price reductions on the economy, and could also be reduced if sterling falls in response to the oil price reduction. That tends to increase the Government's North Sea "take", because oil is priced in dollars.

Small independent companies such as Lasso and Tricentrol will lose out because, quite simply, they stand to get \$4 a barrel less for most of their oil than they have been getting up to now. The main beneficiaries will be BP, Esso, Shell and other American companies which have refineries in Britain, though they will probably say they are still not making money.

## Will there be cheaper petrol or heating oil as a result of this cut?

The answer is probably yes — but it will only be a marginal difference, equivalent to say two or three pence off petrol prices. The reason is that the big oil companies want to keep the benefits of the reductions themselves because of their refining and marketing losses downstream, and not pass them on. The industry is already subsidizing garages selling petrol to the tune of more than £40m a month, in subsidies.

Critics say that it is absurd that the consumer should pay for the overcapacity in the refining business. As a result of the industry's failure to foresee the oil price ex-

plosion of the 1970s, Britain's refineries are processing 69 million tonnes a year of oil — but have a capacity to use 132 million tonnes. Although BP and Shell have recently announced closures, the companies are still loath to reduce capacity for fear of losing market share.

## How far will oil prices fall?

That will depend to a considerable extent upon what Opec does. Pressure is mounting for an emergency meeting later this month, at which Saudi Arabia will be called on to reduce its output by some 40 per cent of the Opec total — in an effort to remove the oil surplus. So far it has refused to do so. With the traditionally low demand period of summer approaching, however, even that may not be enough to stop prices falling, possibly as far as \$25 a barrel. However, the Government has a good chance that North Sea prices will hold until the end of June at about the level BNOC has proposed.

## What effect will the price cut have on North Sea exploration?

In the short term, not very much. There will certainly still be great industry interest in the forthcoming eighth round of North Sea licences being planned by the Government. However, the long-term effect could be more significant, since the North Sea is one of the most expensive areas in the world to explore and develop oil.

## Business Editor

## Looking for lower interest rates

Financial market confidence that interest rates will continue to fall is growing. While the March payment of Petroleum Revenue Tax yesterday helped leave an estimated liquidity shortage of about £1,150m, and kept seven-day interest rates hovering around the round-tripping trigger level, period rates in the money markets eased appreciably. And the gilt-edged market had another good day too.

The feeling is that American rates are probably over the worst for the time being, fiscal policy in next week's Budget will be suitably restrained, and that the fall in oil price is good news for inflation. Certainly, sterling has held up very well so far in the face of the falling oil price, and it may well continue to do so if overseas investors give the Chancellor the thumbs-up next week.

But it remains a delicate balance on the external front while, internally, investors still need convincing that private sector credit demand can be contained before they are prepared to endorse the idea of real interest rates down to the 2-3 per cent level.

## County Bank

## Where next?

From humble beginnings, County Bank is at last coming of age as the merchant banking arm of National Westminster.

Yesterday it reported a 20 per cent increase in pre-tax profits to £8.2m. Admittedly that is no great performance on a balance sheet of more than £1,000m but, if it claims, it has sown its seeds in fertile ground. It should be reaping the benefit in the years ahead.

Its main achievement so far has been to establish itself in the more traditional merchant banking areas — corporate finance, lending, fund management, and international banking. But the last thing it needs itself becoming is a mirror image of the mainstream accepting houses and it is now allowing itself the luxury of musing about what its next stage of development will be.

Like the other merchant banks, it has looked enviously at the United States investment banks, European universal banks and the Japanese securities houses and in particular their ability to deal in shares. There are now too many legislative hurdles to be overcome to make this feasible in the short term, although County is eyeing the Japanese market.

Plainly, though, it is starting to see scope in the possibility of moving into stockbroking territory should the Restrictive Practices Court upset the cosy single-capacity structure. After all, brokers have increasingly been poaching corporate finance work from the banks and if that buzz word in financial services these days, "reciprocity", means anything, it

is only a matter of time before the boot moves on to the other foot.

## Unilever

## Resilience

Unilever's deversity of interests has frequently given good protection against adverse international trading conditions, and the 24 per cent increase in 1981 pre-tax profits to £708m is further confirmation of the combine's resilience.

The outcome is especially healthy bearing in mind that the increase in the final quarter was held to just 13 per cent (to £144m), reflecting adverse currency movements of £15.9m compared with £3.1m in 1980.

But looking at the figures overall, the striking point is that significantly bigger profits were made from sales which rose by only 2 per cent in volume and 17 per cent in value £11,850m. Equally interesting, it was sales outside Europe and North America which provided the bulk of the profits rise.

Despite high promotion costs in the fourth quarter, detergents did well, along with other consumer products. But edible fats, were no better than in 1980 and chemicals, transport, and paper, plastics and packaging declined. Frozen foods suffered particularly.

Nevertheless, the final dividend of 24.2p gross brings the total to 38.4p gross, where the yield on last night's price of 665p, up 5p, is 6 per cent.

The economic programme outlined by Shadow Chancellor Peter Shore is a very big injection of demand into the economy. By pumping in £9,000million (mostly through public spending) Mr Shore hopes he would get 5 per cent growth. The money would be used in ways which would tend to depress the inflation rate in the short term, so he is able to claim that the Treasury model shows only an extra 2½ per cent inflation in 12 months time compared to present policies.

The package bears clear signs of being a "quick fix" designed to produce attractive looking results in the short term. Only £100million of the extra £900million would go to public investment. The rest would go to higher current spending and tax cuts. The purpose of this is obviously to lay the basis for an incomes policy. By holding down prices in the first year of the programme, Mr Shore hopes that he would get an understanding with the unions in the second and subsequent years which would prevent a new round of inflation. The danger is that wage bargainers would take the money the Chancellor handed them and then ask for more on top because the economy was picking up. A reflection on the scale Mr Shore proposes has a risk of provoking that, yet as he points out anything much less will not bring about a substantial drop in unemployment.

## Hardly a living wage

## AT WORK: LOW PAY

By Rupert Morris

The motives of low-paid workers vary. But almost all of them are virtually powerless to improve their lot.

There is a widespread assumption that today's social benefits ensure that hardly anyone in Britain is really on the bread-line. Talk of a "poverty trap" tends to be dismissed as alarmist.

Yet official figures show that 4,750,000 people earn less than £85 a week. Perhaps a quarter of this group earn less than £60 a week, and many are unquestionably at or near subsistence level.

The lowest-paid of all are the homeworkers, overwhelmingly women doing either full or part-time work, knitting, sewing, typing, making toys or performing simple manufacturing tasks.

There are about 250,000 of them, according to the independent, trust-funded Low Pay Unit (LPU), which reckons the average rate of pay is 75p an hour for manufacturing jobs and only 50p an hour for non-manufacturing jobs.

Statistics in such an unmonitored area of work are slightly suspect, but a Department of Employment study last year also showed that a majority of homeworkers were paid less than £1 an hour.

Individual examples are perhaps as helpful. Mrs Doreen Marriott, who is 51 and has a disabled son and 18-year-old daughter, lost her job last week. As one of the better-paid homeworkers — she sewed pants and tee-shirts for a local firm near Hinkley, Leicestershire — she used to earn about £45 a week. It was a vital addition to the £70 a week the state provides.

With half that £70 going on rent and fuel, the loss of her

job has forced Mrs Marriott to re-think her family budget. She has given up cigarettes, and slashed her spending on food.

"We're just living from day to day," said Mrs Marriott, who now has to charge her son and daughter £10 a week each, even though it is nearly half her son's unemployment benefit, and her daughter is working a short-time for less than £40 a week.

Mrs Doreen Singfield, a housewife at Sumbury-on-Thames, with one child still living at home, took a part-time job last year twisting wires for a plastics firm — a monotonous job, but something to do while watching the television. She earned about £6 a week for working anything up to 40 hours. Her husband earns £85 a week as a maintenance fitter, so it was not essential for her to work. She gave it up when the firm said it was paying her too much.

Mrs Marriott and Mrs Singfield are in different predicaments. But there are similarities: like all home-

workers, they have to take what they can get.

There is a ready supply of labour, and not for one reason or another, willing to work for negligible wages, and impossible to organize in any coherent way to stand up for themselves.

Homeworkers are, of course, an exceptional category, but as Chris Pond, Director of the Low Pay Unit, explains there are other constraints and influences which keep other groups at the bottom of the pile.

Non-unionisation is a significant factor, and the rapid turnover of people in low-paid jobs ensures that even where a union like the Union of Shop, Distributive and Allied Workers launches a massive recruitment drive, as "USDAW" did between 1977 and 1979, boosting its membership by 60 per cent, it still loses a third of its members each year.

Under the 1980 Employment Act, you have to work for a firm for a year before you can claim unfair dismissal — so low-paid, high-

turnover workers often lack legal rights.

For part-time workers, mostly women, legal protection is slighter still. If they work more than 16 hours a week, they can claim unfair dismissal after two years; if they work less than 16 hours a week, they have to work for five years to earn legal protection.

About a third of employers pay less than the minimum wages set by the wages councils — covering areas of work like hairdressing, catering, and clothing. But out of 12,000 identified by the Wages Inspectorate as underpaying their workers, only nine were prosecuted.

At the bottom end of the jobs market, it is all too easy for an employer to say that if he pays any more, jobs will have to go.

Hairdressing, where 100,000 are employed, is the lowest-paid work covered by a Wages Council. USDAW's withdrawal from the council in disgust in 1972 has only led to a further relative decline in wages, according to the Low Pay Unit.

New statutory minimum rates for 1982, to be applied from April, are shown in the table.

Scarcity of jobs has meant an increasing number of different occupations are falling into the low pay net.

But perhaps one of the most startling to emerge over the last year is that of cleaners in the civil service. At £1.40 an hour, they have to work 13 hours a week to earn the equivalent of what they would get from unemployment benefit.

At this level, farmworkers, who have long been regarded as some of the poorest paid people in Britain, are, in Mr Pond's words, "the gentry of the low-paid workforce".

This advertisement is issued in compliance with the requirements of the Council of The Stock Exchange. It does not constitute an invitation to the public to subscribe for or purchase any securities.

## Brown Shipley Sterling Capital Fund Limited

(A company limited by shares and incorporated on 20th August 1979, in Jersey, Channel Islands, under the Companies (Jersey) Laws 1961 to 1968).

## Share Capital

## Authorised

## Issued and fully paid

£1,000	1,000 Management Shares of £1 each	£1,000
£99,000	9,900,000 Unclassified Shares of 1p each of which on 19th February, 1982 341,839 were in issue as Participating Redeemable Preference Shares, and 88,864 were in issue as Nominal Shares	£3,418 £889
£100,000		£5,307

Application has been made to the Council of The Stock Exchange for Participating Redeemable Preference Shares to be admitted to the Official List.

Particulars of the Company are available in the Extel Statistical Service and copies of such particulars may be obtained during usual business hours on any weekday (Saturdays excepted) up to and including 17th March, 1982 from:

Brown Shipley Trust Company (Jersey) Limited, Channel House, Green Street, St. Helier, Jersey, Channel Islands.

Cazenove & Co., 12 Tokenhouse Yard, London EC2R 7AN.

3rd March, 1982



**§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.**

[illegible]



[illegible]



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# Miss Austin not fit to play for another week

Los Angeles, March 2. — Tracy Austin, the top seed, was forced to withdraw yesterday from the women's tennis tournament here because of burns suffered from boiling water was spilled on her over the weekend.

Miss Austin, aged 19, said a restaurant employee had dropped a pot of boiling water on her left arm and stomach. She said she could not play because the burns on her arm were too painful. She was dining out with her family when a waiter inadvertently collided with her.

The incident occurred on Saturday night in nearby Torrance. She was sent to hospital after being taken to the St. Vincent's hospital where she suffered first and second degree burns. Miss Austin has not played in six weeks because of a bad injury. It was announced that she should be able to return to action within a week. Her place in the tournament has been taken by Mary Lou Piatek.

Claudia Kohde, of West Germany, beat Sue Barker, of Britain, 6-3, 7-5. Miss Kohde's second round opponent will be Andrea Leand, aged 18, who beat Kathy Rinaldi, 14, by 7-5, 7-5 in her first professional appearance.

The tournament, being played at the Forum in suburban Inglewood, will end on Sunday. The singles champion will earn \$30,000.

In other first round matches Pam Teeguarden overwhelmed Ann Henrickson in the second set after being taken to the St. Vincent's hospital where she suffered first and second degree burns. Miss Austin has not played in six weeks because of a bad injury. It was announced that she should be able to return to action within a week. Her place in the tournament has been taken by Mary Lou Piatek.

TOP TEN (US unless stated): 1. M. Navratilova, \$122,700; 2. A. Jager, \$91,200; 3. P. Fong, \$74,500; 4. A. Smith, \$52,800; 5. B. Riggs, \$49,000; 6. W. Taylor, \$46,700; 7. V. Richey, \$42,200; 8. S. Haskins, \$32,800; 9. J. Jager, \$29,100; 10. M. L. Piatek, \$25,600.

# Lifeless first Test ends in a draw

From Peter McFarlane, Wellington, March 2

The first Test between Australia and New Zealand ended, as expected, in a lifeless draw at the Basin Reserve here today.

The fifth and final day was the only one not interrupted by Wellington's notoriously bad weather. New Zealand carried its first innings of 127 for 2 made in 289 minutes during the first four days, to 266 for 7 before Captain Geoff Howarth declared midway through the afternoon to give Australia less than three hours to bat.

When the Test finished at 5.30 pm after the captain used their option to finish half an hour early, Australia was 85 for 1 with Bruce Laird 27 not out and John Edger 12 not out. For the first time in five days the sun shone but, unfortunately, New Zealand's premier batsmen did not and neither did the Australian fielders.

The home side lost five wickets while adding 139 runs in 176 minutes today. Opening batsman Bruce Edgar's defiant stay ended after 336 minutes in which time he accumulated runs from 259 deliveries before he tried to hit Terry Alderman to leg and was lbw.

Edgar's half-century was one of the slowest in Test history, just behind the mark of Pakistan's Javed Butt, who took 367 minutes to make 50 in a 1959 Karachi Test against Australia.

Geoff Howarth finished with 58 not out, but he was missed twice, at 3 and 18, simple chances that should have been held at second slip and midwicket. Jeremy Conway spent half an hour over a single before he was lbw to Bruce Yardley.

Martin Crowe, in his Test debut, was given a torrid time by Jeff Thomson, disgusted by a spate of dropped chances by the Australians, mostly off his bowling. Five catches were down in the innings and wicket-keeper Rod Marsh missed a simple stumping off Edgar when 31.

Just before the declaration, Richard Hadlee hit powerfully for 21 and Lance Cairns took two straight sizes off Bruce Yardley in the last over of the innings.

Of the bowlers, Thomson was easily the most impressive after a wayward beginning. He finished with 2 for 35 from 26 overs, 13 of which were maidens. With nothing to gain except perhaps the New Zealand \$1,000 prize of the match award from Rothmans the sponsors, Australian openers Graeme Wood and Bruce Laird declared confidently in a stand of 65.

Wood once swung the medium-pace of Martin Snedden over the five-leg fence but on 41, tried to force Cairns' slower ball past him and chopped the ball into his stumps.

Edgar was named man-of-the-match. The second Test begins in Auckland on March 12.

**SCOREBOARD**

**NEW ZEALAND: First Innings**

B A Edgar	55
J M Snedden	15
J F M Thomson	15
B R Hadlee	1
J V Conway	1
M D Crowe	1
J J Hadlee	1
11 D S Smith	1
B R Cairns	1
Edgar 65, 18, 10, 4, 11	39

**Total (7 wickets down)** 266

**Australia: First Innings**

G M Wood	41
B M Laird	27
J Dyon	12
Edgar 12, 30	12

**Total (11 wickets down)** 127

**FALL OF WICKETS: 1-65, 2-120, 3-149, 4-152, 5-186, 6-212, 7-245.**

**BOWLING: New Zealand: 15-20-35-2, Alderman, 16-20-35-2, 15-20-35-2, 15-20-35-2, 15-20-35-2, 15-20-35-2, 15-20-35-2.**

**FALL OF WICKETS: 1-65, 2-120, 3-149, 4-152, 5-186, 6-212, 7-245.**

**BOWLING: Australia: 15-20-35-2, Snedden, 15-20-35-2, 15-20-35-2, 15-20-35-2, 15-20-35-2, 15-20-35-2, 15-20-35-2.**

Geoff Howarth: top scorer with 58.

# Ripple of dismay over unbarbed hooks idea

By Conrad Voss Bark

A leading naturalist and fisherman, John Goddard, well known to fly fishermen on both sides of the Atlantic and author of a number of books on underwater insect life, has caused a ripple of dismay over the idea of unbarbed hooks.

It is difficult to convey the shock, the dismay, that such an argument can have upon the more moderate of fly fishers: as though the world has suddenly been turned upside down, as if some new Galileo had appeared with a totally indefensible theory about the solar system which is so manifestly absurd that the man must be a heretic and mad even to consider putting it forward. Everyone knows, from Aristotle to Berners, from Berners to Walton, that fish-hooks need barbs; to consider them unbarbed is ridiculous; the fish will shake themselves off as soon as they are hooked.

Not so, says Goddard. They do not. He argues that in some ways barbed hooks take a better hold than those with barbs because they penetrate more easily and sink into the gills or bone of the fish's mouth right up to the head of the hook. Hooks with barbs frequently fail to do this and therefore are more easily thrown.

It is not only a theory. For the past five years he has been experimenting with barbed hooks on his water on the Kennebec. About 40 trout were taken and in not one instance did any escape, even though Goddard



John Goddard: experiments on the Kennebec water.

on some occasions put down the rod and gave them a completely slack line. The hook still had a firm hold when he picked the rod up again.

There is an additional advantage. The trout receives far less damage from a barbed hook and the hook is more easily removed from the fish's mouth than one with a barb if the angler wishes to let the trout go free. This leads Goddard to speculate whether purely sport fishing for trout, as in America, where it is known as catch-and-release, would ever become popular in this country.

It is doubtful. The American experience is different from our own. The average English like to eat their trout. They taste better, too, when fresh from a river than from a fishmonger's slab.

# La Crème de la crème

## M.D.'s Sec/PA

A privately owned group of companies with diverse interests in the shipping, offshore and oil business is seeking a Senior Secretary/PA for their impressive offices close to Blackfriars Station.

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As Thames except: 1.20 pm-1.30 News, 5.15-5.45 Radio, 6.00 Crossroads except: 1.20-1.30 News, introduced by Bob Warman and Wendy Nelson in the West Midlands and by Nick Owen and Anne Diamond in the East Midlands. 12.00 Replay; 'Crisis' - the Hunt (Mickey Rooney). 1.00am Closesown.

## SCOTTISH

As Thames except: 1.20 pm News, 1.30-2.00 *Full Lite*; *Rumour Gossip*, 5.10-5.45 News, 5.50-6.00 *Crossroads*, 6.00 *Scotland Today*, 6.20 *Action Line*, 6.57-7.00 *Sounds* Gaelic with Alasdair Gillies, 10.30 *Scotport* Midweek, 12.00 *Late Call*, 12.05 am Closesown.

## GRAMPIAN

As Thames except: Starts 9.25 am-1.30 First Thing, 1.20 pm-1.30 News, 5.15-5.45 *Private Benjamin*, 6.00-6.35 *North Tonight*, 10.30 *Scotport*.

**CENTRAL**

**ANGLIA**

As-Thames except: 1.20 pm-1.30 News. 5.15-5.45 Happy Days. 6.00-6.35 About Anglia. 12.00 Love American Style. 12.25 Am The Big Question, followed by Closedown.

**GRANADA**

As-Thames except: 12.30pm-1.00 Mr and Mrs. 1.20 Granada Reports: 1.30 Exchange Flags. 2.00 Taste the High Road. 2.30-2.45 Multi-million Viewer Audition. 5.15-5.45 Private Benjamin. 6.00 This is Your Right. 8.05 Crossroads. 8.30-7.00 Granada Reports. 12.00 Police Surgeon. 12.05-12.30 Crossroads.

## GRANADA



**Roy Hudd: ITV 12.30pm**

## GRAMPIAN

## Court of Appeal

## Law Report March 3 1982

## Divisional Court

**General rule overrides banking practice      No breach of peace      Unlawful detention**  
**likely to be caused      of citizen**

the contrary, see *Startup v Macdonald* (1843) 6 Man & G 593. It was suggested that there was some a tinge in that case, and that the notice was given through a bank on any day if it was received before 3 pm, or, in exceptional circumstances, before 4 pm. There is no such practice, but none the less the general rule applied. According to the charterparty, the vessel was to be ready to receive cargo in default if they had not paid by midnight on June 14-15.

It followed that the notice could not be given until after midnight on June 14-15. The clause in *The Mihalis Angelos* (1971) 1 QB 164, it was held that a cancelling notice could not be given in anticipation, even though it was impossible for the vessel to arrive in time. The same rationale applied.

That was sufficient to decide the case. There was an additional point was that the notice itself was bad. Such notices had to be clear, definite and unequivocal. See *White & Carter (Councils) Ltd v McGregor* (1962) 1 WLR 136, 164 per his Lordship. The owners' notice did not have those characteristics since, it was expressed in conditional terms.

**LORD JUSTICE GIBBS.**

It was clear that an objection with such potentially momentous consequences should hinge on a definite moment of time, namely midnight. There was no room for vagaries of banking hours which varied from bank to bank.

*Lord Justice Kerr* agreed.

Solicitors: Middleton Potts & Co; Constant & Constant.

any other premises or place to which at the material time the public had or were permitted to have access.

The words "at the material time" are of great importance. The premises in question were clearly a public place when the shop was open but at the material time, when the car park was closed, and therefore the car park was not then a public place, notwithstanding that the shop windows were open to the public. There is evidence as to whether the public were permitted access for the purpose of looking into the window.

On that basis alone an acquittal was inevitable. It followed therefore that the evidence was not fully and that the respondent was doing no more than what was reasonable to evict them.

However, if it had been a public place, then the police would have been acting lawfully

**Bentley v Brudzinski**  
Before Lord Justice Donaldson  
and Mr Justice McCullough  
[Judgment delivered February 26]

When a police officer wished to detain for questioning a short, stout, middle-aged man who refused to remain, and who attempted to walk away, the firm but not hostile placing of the officer's hands on the citizen's shoulders with the intention of stopping him might be unlawful so far as the "action" outside the scope of his duty.

Whether such an act was unlawful was not a question of law, but a question of fact, depending on the circumstances which preceded it, and on the degree of force used. It made no difference that the "action" was carried out by a second officer at the request of the first officer.

The Divisional Court so held, refusing an appeal by the prosecutor by way of case stated.

His Lordship said that the case raised the important issue of the power of a police officer to stop a citizen without a warrant or making an arrest. When a citizen was not arrested he was free to walk away unless there was a reasonable suspicion that he was or for a common law right to detain where a breach of the peace was threatened.

The facts were similar to *Donnell v. Jackman* (1970) 1 C.W.R. 562) where the Divisional Court held that it was lawful for a police officer to touch a person's shoulder in order to attract his attention. By a 'touch' it was apparent that the magistrate was referring to a minimal, trivial interference with the citizen's liberty.

When a police officer and a citizen are engaged in a conversation of that kind much turned upon the individual circumstances, in particular what had happened previously and the nature of the physical contact with the citizen.

could be given as soon as his share was "due"; that hire was due on the last day of the month; and that therefore the notice could be given at any time on June 14.

His Lordship did not agree. The general rule was that time for payment expired at midnight, and in question unless it was shown that there was an established usage to the contrary.

**To vary consent.**

Toobman's favour. Mr Justice Gouling's order affected the house in Shepherd's Bush, London, which, until the bankruptcy, had been in the joint beneficial ownership of Mr and Mrs Toobman, but which was ordered to be sold with vacant possession.

The law was to be after sale, unless within that period Mrs Toobman paid the trustee in bankruptcy a sum equal to the value of Mr Toobman's interest in the property and was sufficient to discharge all debts for which he was liable and costs.

Mr Briggs, for Mrs Toobman, contended that Mr and Mrs Toobman and a friend from whom Mrs Toobman borrowed £7,000, were misled by erroneous estimates into thinking that their home could be saved by a payment of about that amount, when the trustee would not know that the sum would not be enough, at the time when he paid a dividend of 50p to the creditors.

Mr Moss, for the trustee, contended that the £5,500 paid to him was after-acquired property

with such potentially momentous consequences should hinge on a definite moment of time, namely, the time of the report on the vagaries of bawling hours which varied from bank to bank.

**Lord Justice Kerr** agreed.

**Solicitors:** Middleton Potts & Co; Constant & Constant.

**Order**

and divisible among the creditors by virtue of section 38 of the 1914 Act, and could not be repaid as to return it, trustee had offered to would inevitably have had to be given in the summer or autumn of 1987.

also referred to in *re Bailey* ([1977] 1 W.L.R. 278, in *re Holiday* ([1981] Ch 405), and in *re Louvis* ([1981] 3 All ER 353), with regard to Mrs Toobman's health. A medical report stated that she had since 1979 been suffering from heart disease and anxiety and that her condition would be worsened if she had to leave her home.

The difficulty was that there was no period, short of Mrs Toobman's life, for which this sale could usefully be postponed, and it would not be just to keep the creditors out of their money for such a length of time. In the circumstances, albeit with apprehension, the court must take a risk with Mrs Toobman's health and decline to postpone this sale.

**Judges:** Lord Justice Kerr, Sir Shepherd's Bush; Malkin Cullis & Sampson.

Mr Andrew Maitland for the prosecutor; the respondent did not appear and was not represented.

MR JUSTICE McCULLOUGH said that the respondent, Mr John Arscott, was charged, with reference to the abusive, insulting words or behaviour whereby a breach of the peace was likely to be occasioned by section 5 of the Public Order Act 1936 as amended.

The respondent was found by police officers slumped over the bonnet of a car parked in the car park of the Marlborough Hotel in Launceston, Cornwall. He had been drinking, and the police questioned him in an endeavour to establish his identity. He refused to do this, saying only that he was the owner of the property and told the police to leave. He was uncooperative, abusive and insulting.

Then the respondent's wife, who owned the car, and was known by one of the officers, appeared and confirmed the identity of her husband. The respondent continued to ask the police to leave but they remained. The respondent used abusive and aggressive in manner and speech, and threatened the police officers, poking and pushing one of them in the chest, whereupon he was arrested.

The respondent took place on the respondent's property and no other member of the general public was present.

His Lordship further stated that section 9 of the Public Order Act 1936, by the Criminal Justice Act 1964 and the Criminal Justice Act 1972, defined a public place for the purposes of section 5 as including any highway and

and the breach of the peace which occurred would have been caused by the respondent's behaviour.

However, that would still not have constituted an offence under section 5, as the offence required the conduct to be preceded and which was likely to be preceded about a breach of the peace, whether or not the breach of the peace itself constituted a breach of the peace; and that was not the case, as the conduct which was a breach of the peace was not a breach of the peace and no more. That was what was meant by the words "whereby a breach of the peace was likely to be occasioned".

In this case only the respondent and the police officers were whose duty it was to keep the peace, were put to the test. If the respondent's threatening and insulting behaviour constituted a breach of the peace, it could not be said to be likely to bring about any breach of the peace or threaten any breach of the peace or threaten the behaviour of the respondent.

**LORD JUSTICE DONALDSON** concurring, said that the court could not extend the scope of the section beyond that for which it was intended it, but that did not mean that the police were defenceless in such situations, as they had ample powers without relying on section 5.

In appropriate circumstances the police might arrest a person for his conduct, or they might refer the case to a police officer in the execution of his duty, for causing a breach of the peace, or for common assault, and a policeman has the right and duty to use common sense to detain those who were threatening a breach of the peace.

Solicitors: Bradley and Bonsey of Launceston.

Northham justices sitting at Mansfield on July 3, 1964, dismissing the charge against the respondent, who was charged by the Police Act 1964 of assaulting a police constable in the execution of his duty.

At the time of the trial, the prosecutor, the respondent, did not appear and was not represented by counsel.

MR JUSTICE MCILLOUGH said that PC Phillips was on patrol at 3.30 and questioned the respondent and his brother. The respondent answered his questions truthfully and identified themselves.

While they were talking, the officer took hold of their arms and asked them to wait while he made inquiries.

While that was being done the brothers waited by the police car not under arrest but as volunteers. The officer was unsuccessful in confirming their identities by radio.

About 10 minutes had elapsed when the respondent told the officer that he was going home and started to walk off. He was followed by the officer who walked away another officer.

Butler arrived, but he had no knowledge of what had just transpired. PC Phillips indicated to PC Butler that he wanted to talk to the respondent, who was upon PC Butler stopped him from proceeding by putting his hand on the respondent's shoulder. At the same time PC Phillips took hold of the brother's arm.

PC Butler then told the respondent assaulted the officer by punching him in the face whereupon a struggle broke out in which the respondent was overpowered and taken to the station in the execution of his duty.

In this case the respondent had requested all the information requested of him, and had remained with the officer to enable him to make inquiries. It was assumed to prevent him from leaving amounted to more than a trivial interference with the respondent's liberty and was a sufficient ground for him to stop and detain him so that it followed that the officer was acting outside the scope of his duty.

It made no difference that it was PC Butler who stopped the respondent for he was acting as the agent of PC Phillips in so doing, and it would be artificial to say that the actions of the officer were independent. PC Butler had acted at the behest of PC Phillips.

For these reasons the appeal would be dismissed.

**LORD JUSTICE DONALDSON,** agreeing, said that in those circumstances the respondent would have had no defence to a charge of common assault. In such cases the court had to consider whether a police officer was acting lawfully or in the execution of his duty. That phrase was misunderstood by many police officers. PC Butler would be very surprised to learn that he was acting outside his duty. Indeed he would have been failing in his duty if he had not acted as the respondent's agent. The question was whether he had exceeded his powers, as in this case he had, although he was clearly acting in the execution of his duty, the broad meaning of the term, but not in its technical meaning.

Solicitors: Sharpe Pritchard & Co for Mr David Ritchie, Nottingham.



# Lifeboat capsizes in the Channel

By Richard Evans

An investigation was under way last night to discover how a lifeboat capsized and failed to right itself in moderate seas in the English Channel.

The four-man crew in the 21-foot Forester Benevolence, based at Lyme Regis, scrambled ashore unharmed after the two-year-old craft suddenly overturned about 500 yards off Dorset.

The lifeboat was on a routine quarterly inspection when an RNLI official aboard when it was summoned to help a 77-year-old man reported to be in difficulty while looking for his dog along the coast.

The crew was helping to locate Mr Leonard Neil when the boat overturned, just before midday. On board were Mr Christopher Price, the RNLI's divisional inspector, Mr John Hodder, the helmsman, Mr Robert Irish and Mr John Ennals. The semi-rigid inflatable had a righting airbag which involved pulling a release cord in the boat's stern.

Major General Richard Jell, honorary secretary to the Lyme Regis lifeboat station, disclosed last night that the righting gear had been activated after the boat capsized, but failed to work. "There was rough weather and broken water and they were caught by a freak wave and overturned. For some reason, not yet discovered, the self-righting gear did not work. It is very unusual for such a boat to capsize, especially as the weather was not very rough."

He said the boat operated up to 30 miles off the coast between Exmouth and Portland Bill and its righting gear was subject to regular testing. The boat was swept ashore on to rocks within about 20 minutes of it overturning. The glass fibre hull appeared intact although the superstructure was reported damaged.

Portland Coastguards said last night that weather conditions at the time of the incident were "fair to good". Visibility was good and there was a force six south-westerly wind.

Mr Neil of Ozone Terrace, Lyme Regis, was airlifted to hospital by a naval helicopter from Portland and taken to hospital suffering from bruising and cold. Last night Lyme Regis was preparing to take delivery of a lifeboat similar to the one that capsized.



A Harris hawk alighting on the gloved hand of a young visitor to the Welsh Hawking Centre, near Barry, yesterday. The bird is one of the gentler inhabitants, used to give visitors a taste of the sport.

## Fishing trade winds blow fair in the high street

From Craig Seton Falmouth

The Russians are going. So are the Bulgarians, the Romanians, East Germans, Egyptians and the Ghanaians, leaving Falmouth in Cornwall a duller but richer port.

The mackerel season is over off the west coast and the foreign factory ships that arrive in November and fill Falmouth harbour throughout the winter months, receiving, processing, canning and freezing the huge catch brought from British trawlers, are now returning to their home ports.

But before they all leave, the crews, who can total up to 4,000 at the peak of the season, are making their last sorties ashore to buy goods from the town's shops and stores in a trade that has been

come big business for some.

There is now a local code to the various nationalities. The Russians and East Europeans arrive in the high street carrying brief cases (no one knows why) and depart laden with carpets, Japanese radio cassettes and clothing.

The Egyptians insist on bargaining, although they have been warned by their Embassy, that it is not a British custom. The Ghanaians, new arrivals this season, haul fridges and freezers back aboard their vessels. Scottish trawlermen are known for enjoying a quiet pint or two in Falmouth's cosy hostels.

What is clear is that behind them they leave hundreds of thousands of pounds (some say several millions) to bolster the sluggish winter economy of Falmouth until the tourists arrive.

Some of the townfolk, especially those who have retired to the area, are not so keen on the visitors, who first came to Falmouth in numbers about five years ago in search of the South-west's rich mackerel stocks.

Captain David Banks, the Harbour Master, is, however, quite clear what he thinks. "It has brought its problems but this port would be a duller, more humdrum place without this industry. The crews spend a lot of money and they even have coach trips to the big stores in Truro and Plymouth."

Many local businesses would have had a very lean time or may even have had to close down but for the presence of these vessels, especially after the run-down of the docks.

The crews' behaviour was acceptable—"a damned sight better behaved than many British football fans abroad."

There can be between 30 and 40 factory ships off Falmouth during the winter season and anything between 60 and 120 British trawlers, mainly from Scotland, selling their mackerel. There have to be strict regulations to control their seaborne activities and a code of conduct in English, Bulgarian, German and Russian is now published every year.

The various foreign vessels have English-speaking "flag captains" who come ashore each day to liaise with their agents and the shore authorities.

Rubbish is one of the biggest problems. Even though all the ships contribute to use the services of a weekly garbage vessel, a floating dustcart accord-

ing to Captain Banks, some of it still finds its way on to local beaches, and that is a sensitive issue. Last season the flag captains and their crews clean up, but this year the job is being done by two locals on community service.

There are also problems of smell, noise and the improper use of VHF radios to sort out, but a solution is usually found.

Local traders, and they include firms supplying the vessels with all their food and provisions, are in no doubt about the benefit provided by the foreign visitors. One local electrical shop has sold more than £5,000-worth of goods to the crews this season. A high street discount store usually expects to take £1,000 on days when the crews are ashore. They also bring a welcome trade to local pubs, cafes and restaurants.

Frank Johnson in the Commons

## A restrained innings against pace attack

"Maggie Fury at South Africa Cricket Tour" said a headline in *The Sun*. Other morning newspapers had variously described the Prime Minister as *dismayed*, and *concerned* and *angry*.

Some of us went into Prime Minister's question time, then, with forboding, being dismayed and concerned at her anger. For that is not what we regard her as being for. We like her fury to be directed at the great liberal causes.

But it turned out that all was well. Throughout the exchanges she bore the rebellious cricketers' action with marked composure. She preferred to dwell on the importance of allowing citizens of a free country to travel where they liked. This, for a minority of us, is the crucial issue. So the Maggie Fury at the South Africa day's page three girl, a descendant perhaps of the pop artists of old, Billy Fury, ("Maggie's ambition is to travel. She will be in South Africa for the cricket tour.")

It was an historic question time. Mrs Thatcher presumably entered *Wisden* by becoming the first Prime Minister to bat steadily through an entire Commons uproar without once supporting the Government.

The pedantic may object that she is the Government. Well, not always. All the evidence suggests that she regards the Government as a vast force with a life of its own. It is entirely made up of such uncontrollable phenomena as Sports Ministers who have no alternative but to denounce cricket tours of South Africa, and various spokesmen who have to put it about that she is "concerned" about such visits to forbidden lands.

For these purposes, she tends to include the official opposition, much of the press, and the BBC as part of the Government; certainly the SDP is included, indeed she probably sees it as the permanent government.

But, like Mao Tse Tung, Mrs Thatcher presumably entered *Wisden* by becoming the first Prime Minister to bat steadily through an entire Commons uproar without once supporting the Government.

every now and then she generates cultural revolution against the regime over which she nominally presides. Such an occasion was yesterday. The right winger Mr Nicholas Winterbottom (Warrington, Con) rose. He is a co-author of a Commons motion congratulating the cricketers. He has a loud voice, as befits a man who bullies for England. He demanded that Mrs Thatcher defend the principle of a law-abiding citizen of this country has the right to travel where he wants to.

Some of us more delicate souls might have preferred that our cause be championed by a more versatile figure than Mr Winterbottom, but one cannot always choose one's allies. Matters were not helped by the fact that Mr Winterbottom is burly, blond, and has a military background.

Mrs Thatcher replied that all citizens were free to travel and no restrictions would be placed upon them. With that, she sat down. There was no condemnation of the tour. It was in this not entirely subtle way that she revealed the Jack of Fury. One assailed oneself for ever having doubted her.

### An intensified lack of fury

The Labour benches were enraged. Actually, they were delighted. What one means is that they made out they were enraged. Mr Foot rose. He denounced Mr Winterbottom's motion as "deeply humiliating to the House of Commons". He urged her to condemn it. She rose again and repeated that citizens were free to travel. If they were restricted, "we would no longer be a free country."

Mr Foot got up again and condemned the Tory motion. Mrs Thatcher returned to her throne about freedom. Some Labour Members shouted at her to condemn the tour.

"Say it, say it," said others, taking up the cry. She did not. Mr Foot and Mrs Thatcher continued their exchange on the same lines as before. Two Tory wets, Mr Hector Munn and Mr Minister for Sport, and Mr Peter Bottomley, did condemn the tour. This intensified the Prime Minister's lack of fury.

The other *Wisden*-type fact to be recorded is who was the first Labour Backbencher to shout "racist!" and after how long into the question time. (Mr Martin Flannery: five minutes.)

## THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

### Today's events

**Royal engagements**  
The Prince of Wales, chairman, visits Gwent and Mid-Glamorgan in connection with the Prince of Wales Committee, arrives Newport 9.30; presents the Manpower Commission's Plan for Work awards at the Recreation Centre, Bridgend, 3.30.  
The Queen opens the Barbican Centre for Arts and Conferences, Inn, 7.40.  
Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother dines with the Queen and Masters of the Bench of the Honourable Society of Lincoln's Inn, 7.30.

### New exhibitions

The natural parallel, paintings and drawings by Peter Crabtree, Mike Knowles and Peter Prendergast, Riverside Studios, Crisp Road, Hammersmith, W6; Tues-Sun 12 to 6, closed Mon (until March 28).  
Australian Jewellery, Goldsmiths' Hall, Foster Lane, EC2; Mon to Fri 10.30 to 5; (until March 12).  
Indian playing cards, an exhibition of the Victoria and Albert Museum's collection of Indian playing cards, on display at the Bethnal Green Museum of Childhood, Cambridge Heath Road, E2; Mon to Sat 10 to 6, Sun 2.30 to 5, closed Friday; (until May 30).  
Experimental photography, North Staffordshire Polytechnic, Stoke on Trent, Mon-Fri 10.5, closed Sat-Sun (until March 18).

### Barbican Centre

The largest centre for arts and conferences of its kind in West Europe, the Barbican Centre, opens today. The centre has been built by the City of London at the final phase in its post-war redevelopment scheme north of St Paul's Cathedral. It covers a five-and-a-half acre site on ten floors and includes a concert hall, two theatres, three cinemas, a public library, an art gallery and sculpture court, two public restaurants, car parking, conference facilities, private function rooms and two trade exhibition halls.

### The Pound

	Bank buys	Bank sells
Australia \$	1.77	1.85
Canada \$	32.00	30.00
Belgium Fr	88.50	84.00
Denmark Kr	15.14	14.34
France Fr	6.45	6.24
Germany DM	4.51	4.26
Greece Dr	116.50	109.50
Italy Lit	11.25	10.42
Japan Yen	238.50	228.50
Norway Kr	456.00	430.00
Portugal Esc	11.36	10.66
Spain Ptas	131.00	124.00
Sweden Kr	2.12	1.97
Switzerland Fr	132.75	123.75
USA \$	1.90	1.82
Yugoslavia Dnr	3.58	3.36
	97.50	91.50

### The papers

Under the headline, The 46th Man, the Daily Mirror comments today that while English cricketers practised at the nets in South Africa, the inquest in Johannesburg on Dr Neil Asgett was being postponed.  
"In case Geoffrey Boycott and friends don't know, Dr Asgett was the forty-sixth opponent of apartheid to commit suicide in prison, after questioning: 'At least, that is what the authorities said happened'." It writes.  
"There is, however, an alternative theory which it may be too much to expect to see in his stomach. It is that Dr Asgett was murdered, like Steve Biko and all the others. That he was a victim of racist thugs."

### Weather

A deep depression centred over N Scotland will move slowly NE and a very strong, showery W airstream will become established over the British Isles.  
6 am to midnight  
London, East Angles, Midlands, E England: Sunny periods, scattered showers, some heavy; wind SW to W fresh or strong, locally gale force; max temp 7 to 9C (45 to 48F).  
SE, central & SW England, Channel Islands, S Wales: Sunny intervals, heavy showers, heavy at times; wind W strong to gale force, locally storm force; max temp 7 to 9C (45 to 48F).  
Wales, NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man, SW Scotland, N Ireland: Sunny intervals, heavy showers at times and windy on hills; wind W veering NW, strong to gale force, locally storm force; max temp 6 to 8C (43 to 46F).  
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